

# RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

To help churches  
**Begin, Grow or Review**  
their programming for children Birth - 5th Grade

Revised April 2012

**"BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN..."  
(THEN THIS IS THE BOOK FOR YOU!)**

Q: How many children are needed to begin a children's ministry?

A: Zero - you need to start before the first family arrives!

Our Christian faith calls us to acknowledge that every child deserves to be recognized. In Mark 10:14, Jesus said "*Let the little children come to me, do not stop them. For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs*." We must be ready and able to welcome that first child when they walk in our doors. A family shopping for a home church will visit to see if their children will be welcomed and nurtured. You probably won't get a second opportunity if you have nothing available! This can be as simple as offering a children's activity bag before worship.

Not having children in your congregation is an opportunity to outreach into local neighborhoods to provide programming or support to nurture children in your community. Christ calls us to be involved. Children are not just our future; they are our lifeblood now!

## ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

The material is written so that an inexperienced new lay person will not feel overwhelmed. Basic information is included to help start a new ministry as well as resources to review and update existing ministries.

Children's ministries cover such an expanse of opportunities, and this booklet highlights only a few. This publication will continue to be updated and new resources added to meet the needs of our parishes.

We have included as many resources as possible and have highlighted them for ease of use. Further contact information may be found in the Resource Guide. If you need more in-depth information on a particular subject and cannot find it, please contact a member of the Church Commission for Children (CCC) listed on the back page. We welcome your feedback on what you would like to see included in future revisions as well as any additional resources or information. Please contact Laura Leslie with your suggestions. (See back cover).

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# CHILDREN'S CHARTER

## FOR THE CHURCH



### Nurture of THE CHILD

Children are a heritage from the LORD, and the fruit of the womb is a gift. — Psalm 127:4 (BCP)

#### THE CHURCH IS CALLED:

- to receive, nurture and treasure each child as a gift from God;
- to proclaim the Gospel to children, in ways that empower them to receive and respond to God's love;
- to give high priority to the quality of planning for children and the preparation and support of those who minister with them;
- to include children, in fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant, as members and full participants in the Eucharistic community and in the church's common life of prayer, witness and service.

### Ministry to THE CHILD

Then Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them.— Mark 10:16

#### THE CHURCH IS CALLED:

- to love, shelter, protect and defend children within its own community and in the world, especially those who are abused, neglected or in danger;
- to nurture and support families in caring for their children, acting in their children's best interest, and recognizing and fostering their children's spirituality and unique gifts;
- to embrace children who seek Christian nurture independently of their parents' participation in the church;
- to advocate for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children at every level of our religious, civic and political structures.

### Ministry of THE CHILD

A child shall lead them — Isaiah 11:6

#### THE CHURCH IS CALLED:

- to receive children's special gifts as signs of the Reign of God;
- to foster community beyond the family unit, in which children, youth and adults know each other by name, minister to each other, and are partners together in serving Christ in the world;
- to appreciate children's abilities and readiness to represent Christ and his church, to bear witness to him wherever they may be, and according to gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world, and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the church. (Ministry of the Laity pg. 855 BCP)

For more information: [www.episcopalchurch.org/myp](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/myp) 1-800-334-7636 ext 5212  
Developed by the Episcopal Dioceses of Alaska, Baltimore, Central New York, Chicago, Dallas, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Mexico, Southwest Florida, Western North Carolina, Wyoming, and the Office of Children's Ministries for the Episcopal Church 56-9601-2

## THE CHILDREN'S CHARTER

The 1997 General Convention adopted resolution B005, *Children's Charter for the Church*, as a way for congregations and dioceses to recognize how children are witnesses and ministers for Christ in the world. The development of the Charter has included the Children's Ministries Center, an educational display of the charter, a video that contains images of how congregations live out the Baptismal Covenant through the *Children's Charter*, and a curriculum, a six-session study, to help congregations implement the charter.

The *Children's Charter* has become a way for many people, congregations, and dioceses to open their hearts and deepen their call and their commitment to the child and to the Baptismal Covenant."

The above description is taken from "Awake My Soul" a liturgical resource to use with adults and children. The full document (written by the Office for Children's Ministries, Episcopal Church Center) is available for download from:

[episcopalchurch.org  
/documents/myp\\_awake\\_my\\_soul\(1\).pdf](http://episcopalchurch.org/documents/myp_awake_my_soul(1).pdf)

Download a copy of the charter:  
[wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html](http://wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html)

For a congregational study guide:  
[episcopalchurch.org/documents/implementingcc.pdf](http://episcopalchurch.org/documents/implementingcc.pdf)

## ABOUT THE CHURCH COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN (CCC)

The Church Commission for Children (CCC) consists of lay and clerical orders, reflects congregational variety, and seeks to be diverse by race, gender, region, and experience. Currently there are nine members serving from across the diocese of West Virginia. Our gifts include leadership, communication, teaching, organization, hands-on children's programming experience, and resource identification and compilation. We aim to support churches by providing information, resources and training to help you provide a variety of children's ministries. Members are listed on the back page and can be contacted individually if you need assistance.

### MISSION STATEMENT

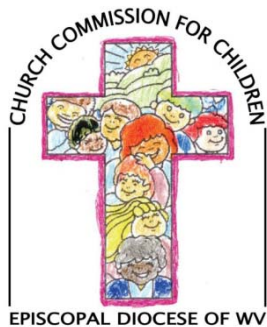
The Church Commission for Children supports congregations and families in welcoming, nurturing, and raising children in the Christian life. We are committed to ensuring the well-being of children by making sure our churches are safe havens, where they are free from neglect and abuse.

### MISSION GOALS

*The Church Commission for Children*

- ✘ ministers to children from birth through fifth grade
- ✘ establishes a visible presence for children's issues at the Diocesan level
- ✘ serves as a liaison to parish children's ministry staff for networking and resources
- ✘ supports Safeguarding God's Children training
- ✘ advocates for and promotes child safety and well-being
- ✘ promotes children's awareness of diversity and anti-racism
- ✘ encourages and empowers congregations to include and listen to children as an integral part of their church community
- ✘ will be a recognizable and responsive voice for the needs and concerns of parishes and their children.

## HOW THE CCC CAN HELP YOUR MINISTRY



### EXPERIENCE, INFORMATION & RESOURCES

With clergy and lay ministers guidance on the Commission, we are able to provide churches with a wealth of experience in all aspects of children's programs. This booklet is the first step to share our experiences and provide information on current resources available to readers. We

will strive to keep an updated version available for download from the Diocesan website.

### SUPPORT

Please contact a member of the CCC if you would like to discuss any aspect of children's programming. The current Commission is listed on the back page of this booklet. We have listed areas of interest and expertise, so choose a member who can help with your particular inquiry. If you are unsure, call the chair who will help put you in contact with the relevant person. A member of the CCC may also be able to visit your church to discuss children's ministries. This could be especially helpful if you are starting a new Sunday School program.

### TRAINING

The CCC periodically presents training seminars for anyone interested in children's programming. We can also arrange specific trainings within the Diocese if there is enough interest (e.g. Godly Play training).

### MAILINGS

Please ensure that Laura Leslie (see back page) has email, phone and mailing details for the person who oversees your children's programs. The CCC will periodically mail/email relevant information and updates to these contacts at each church. This may include seasonal ideas or news relating to children's issues.

### ETHNIC & RACIAL DIVERSITY RESOURCES

The CCC is committed to ensuring that children are exposed to ethnic and racial diversity through resources used within the church environment. In the back of this booklet, we provide a list of resources to help you provide a balanced environment which would help welcome all into your children's programming.

### SHARING RESOURCES

The CCC has started a resources database to help parishes share resources that otherwise would be left in storage. The database could include (but is not limited to) the following: Sunday School curricula, seasonal resources, VBS curricula and supplies, upcoming VBS dates and themes, CD's & DVD's, posters, books and musical resources.

The following examples illustrate several functions and benefits of the database:

#### Giving:

- ♦ You are using year B of a three year curriculum; perhaps another church could borrow or share the costs and start on the material for year A which you are not currently using.
- ♦ You may have materials you no longer use that a church starting a new children's ministry would find invaluable.
- ♦ You have just completed a successful seasonal event. Could you type up a description of your event with links to any crafts, etc. that you used?
- ♦ Do you have scenery backdrops or costumes that could be loaned to other churches?
- ♦ Do you have music CDs or DVDs that you no longer use, or could loan out? Many VBS DVD's can easily be reused in a Sunday School environment.

#### Receiving:

- ♦ You want to test out a curriculum before buying it. Check to see if another church is using it first, and if you could borrow the books over the summer.
- ♦ You are starting a new children's ministry and need supplies on a small budget. See what you can borrow or share first.
- ♦ You are looking for new ideas for a seasonal activity; you can check to see what another church has posted from a previous year.
- ♦ You have chosen your VBS theme and dates; check the database to see if you can share costs with another church doing the same program.

Churches are encouraged to email Lucy Templeton (see back page) with details of any items they have available to loan or give away. The CCC can then match up requests with available resources. Depending on the item, it could be mailed, or clergy could deliver items on clergy days.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CCC

- *Tell us what you need* - The CCC aims to provide support and resources to all Children's Ministries within the Episcopal Diocese of WV. To achieve this, we need to know what the current issues are within parishes. We encourage you to send feed-back, suggestions and requests to Laura Leslie.
- *Update Our Database* - Ensure that Laura Leslie has the current contact information for the person responsible for your Children's Ministry along with information on the programs you presently offer.
- *Sharing Resources Database* - Send Lucy Templeton details of any items you would be willing to donate to or share with another parish.

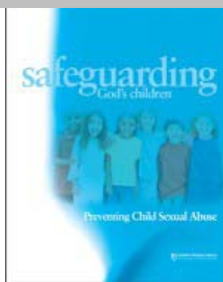
(Contact information for CCC members on back page)



## SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

### Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

Safeguarding God's Children is a Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Training Program provided by the National Episcopal Church. It is essential in our efforts to ensure that all the churches in our diocese are safe havens for the children who attend. Churches by nature welcome new members, eager to help them quickly find service opportunities to suit their interests. Without some basic safeguards in place, this could be the open door a potential child offender is looking out for! We can be welcoming but also safe by taking a few easy precautions such as volunteer screening and never allowing one adult/teen to be alone with a child or children. Ensure your church is doing all it can to eliminate any opportunity for an offender to act, by inviting volunteers, staff and parents to attend a local session of Safeguarding God's Children.



The Safeguarding God's Children training program is an interesting, but eye opening session which lasts approximately 3½ - 4 hours. Participants learn the basic steps to protect children both outside of and within the church environment. They are taught how to identify signs of abuse, how to help those affected and most importantly how we can prevent abuse from happening altogether. Most people, who are initially resistant to attending this training, are usually astounded by what they learn and quickly become advocates recommending the program to their friends.

#### Who should attend Safeguarding training?

*Training Required for* Clergy, Custodial Staff, Secretarial Staff, Treasurer (paid), Acolyte Director, Director of Religious Education, Nursery Workers, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Youth Group Leaders & Volunteers, Youth Minister, Parish Nurse

*Training recommended for* Sunday School Teachers, Adult Education Teachers, Committee Chairs, Guild Director, Lay Spiritual Director, Vestry Members, any other volunteers who have contact with children. Parents also find this training invaluable.

#### Renewal

Participants are required to renew their training every 5 years. We are striving to offer online renewal training, and will update the Diocese if and when this becomes available. This will strictly be for renewals only as it is essential that first time participants attend their first session in person.

#### Where and when are sessions held and what is the cost?

Sessions are held across the Diocese at host churches throughout the year. Contact Diocesan office **304-344-3597** for upcoming dates or to offer to host a session. The cost depends on whether lunch is provided but is \$5-\$15.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The CCC has developed resources to assist congregations in the prevention and detection of child abuse and neglect. Please note that these compliment, not replace, the Safeguarding God's Children Training.

The first resource is a pamphlet titled, "***Keeping our Children Safe***" which provides basic information and resources about child abuse and neglect.

The second is a more comprehensive "***Child Abuse and Neglect***" packet. It provides information about warning signs, reporting, responding to the abused or neglected child, talking to children about sexual abuse, personnel policies, personnel hiring practices, children and youth programs supervisory plan, and helpful resources. Much of the material overlaps with Safeguarding God's Children.

Both documents are available upon request:

***The Diocesan Office, (304) 344-3597***

Or can be downloaded from [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org)  
(Click Ministries & Programs, select CCC)

## MAKING YOUR CHURCH PHYSICALLY SAFE FOR CHILDREN

Child safety is paramount, so take time to regularly walk around your building and grounds and check that you are doing everything possible to provide a safe environment for your children. Each parish needs to check fire codes for their area as there can be regional differences. Likewise, each parish insurance plan has specific requirements and qualifications. As well as these legal requirements, other areas to consider are:

- ✓ If you use stand alone heaters, ensure that they are not accessible by children.
- ✓ A line of sight is maintained during all children's events; if a room has a door without a window, then leave the door open.
- ✓ Keep rooms locked when not in use so a potential offender cannot gain access. Pay particular attention to storage areas and rooms with no windows.
- ✓ Running hot water should not exceed 125°F.
- ✓ Place safety covers on unused electrical sockets.
- ✓ In bathrooms, provide a step stool so children can easily wash their hands and bottles of hand sanitizer in the children's areas.
- ✓ If you have children under the age of 3, ensure that any childcare area is safe and does not contain small items that could pose choking hazards. Get down on your hands and knees to view from a crawling baby's perspective!
- ✓ Check that any cribs, high chairs or other equipment meet current standards. Do an internet search on the product name if possible to ensure there have been no recalls.

## PROVIDING FOR CHILDREN IN CHURCH



### Welcoming Families

Your Greeters and Ushers are your frontline welcoming committee for children, so it is essential that they are involved in your children's ministries. Ensure they are trained to watch out for children entering church, so they can inform parents of your Sunday School or nursery program and invite the children to participate (don't presume they know!) Greeters should also point out where the bathrooms are to parents of young children, and help them find the children's activity packs if you are offering them.

If a family is new to the Episcopal Church, reassure them that Baptized children are welcome to take communion too. Finally, ensure that a parent struggling with a child is offered assistance by the ushers and reassurance that they are welcome even with a crying child!

### Children Should Be Seen...

If you have bulletin boards available, make sure any children's ministries are well represented. This is especially true if your Sunday School runs concurrently with worship. A bulletin board is a good way of communicating across the generations. Pin up children's work and crafts for all to enjoy.

There are other times that families may enter your church such as a wedding or community event; a children's display is a great way to advertise your ministries and show that you welcome children.


### Occupying Children During Worship

Providing a few items for children to use during worship will show new parents that you welcome children in your congregation.

There are several ways of presenting materials. Whichever method you use, ensure that it is prominently visible and that your Greeters are trained to offer the resources to families as they enter church.

- ☺ *Children's Basket:* Use a large basket or storage tub to display a variety of items for children to choose from when they enter church.
- ☺ *Children's Bags:* Purchase cheap fabric bags and put a selection of supplies in. If you are making bags for different age groups, use a permanent marker to identify the age group on the outside of the bag. Some churches hang these on hooks in the back of the church. Remember to check supplies regularly.
- ☺ *Shelving/Cube Display:* Stack some storage cubes together and use each to house an individual item such as items from the list.

## Suggestions Of Items To Offer

- ✚ Small Boxes of Crayons
- ✚ Washable Markers
- ✚ Tablets of plain paper
- ✚ Pencils for older children (the ones with retractable leads are best as you don't have to worry about sharpening!)
- ✚ Bible Coloring Books (dollar stores and Wal-mart)
- ✚ Books for various ages / Children's Bibles
- ✚ Bible Sticker Scenes  
***Orientaltrading.com*** Search: "bible sticker scenes". Item # IN-36/675 is \$2.99 for 12 sticker scenes. They also have Noah's Ark, Resurrection, the Nativity scene, Joseph's Coat, etc.
 
- ✚ Non-messy craft kits such as foam crafts using foam stickers, or coloring crafts. (Purchase larger kits at Michaels or Oriental Trading and divide up into individual baggies. Close with a sticker that asks for all trash to be thrown away upon leaving).
- ✚ Activity Pages: print crosswords, mazes, dot to dots, word searches & puzzles from the internet.  
***www.sermons4kids.com*** or ***dlitk-bible.com/games.htm***
- ✚ Create your own word search puzzles at  
***www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch*** or  
***www.Puzzlemaker.DiscoveryEducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp***
- ✚ Consider offering clipboards, so children can sit facing forward in the pews rather than leaning on them! It may save damage to your pews too.
- ✚ Quiet toys
- ✚ ***www.OrientalTrading.com*** has a variety of religious coloring books especially for Christmas and Easter.

## PROVIDING FOR CHILDREN AT HOME



**TO GO SERIES By CANDLEPRESS**  
***www.candlepress.com***  
**303-337-6852**

At Candle Press they believe that parents long to encourage their children to take the spiritual journey, but usually feel uncomfortable trying to do that. They provide materials that your church can purchase to then email to families to print out and explore their faith at home together. There are now over 18 subject sets to choose from, each one costing \$10.

## PROVIDING NURSERY CHILDCARE

Providing nursery care can be one of the most supportive measures you can provide to a young family. It provides



parents with an opportunity to worship without distraction, and even give them a break from childcare for an hour if they do not have a support network available.

Most churches only provide childcare during the mid morning service on a Sunday. You can decide on the age of children you wish to accommodate especially if you do not have a current Sunday School program. Remember that a nursery program can quickly develop into a one room Sunday School program and then continue to grow...

### How To Start

**Staffing:** You will need to decide on how you are going to staff childcare. Consistency can be easier to manage if you can afford to pay someone to be your regular provider. However, if budgets are tight or you do not have regular child attendance, a schedule of volunteers will work just as well. If you make the commitment to provide this service, make sure that the nursery is open every week or that announcements are made in advance so parents can make alternative arrangements.

**Always Two Adults/Teens:** The golden rule though is that you will need two responsible workers in a nursery. If this is absolutely not possible, one adult can suffice if you have a second “floater” adult checking in on the nursery regularly. The second person must be present when changing diaper and assisting with toileting.

**Required Training:** Arrange for volunteers or staff to complete our Safeguarding God’s Children Training Program. Contact Diocesan Office for details of an upcoming training or to request one be held.

**Space:** Ideally a designated area should be allocated. However, a box of toys and supplies and a pack’n’play can always be pulled out into a communal area if one is not available. Survey the area being used and ensure it is safe. Doors should have windows in them; if not provide a child gate so the door can be left open. Use electrical socket covers, make sure flooring is not deteriorating, etc. Remember, children this age will be on the floor a lot! Hand washing facility should be close by if possible.

**Supplies:** Ask for donations of toys, art, pictures and books from parishioners, or go to yard sales. Check that racial and ethnic diversity is represented in all your resources. Ensure that all toys are safe, clean and do not pose any hazard to children age 3 or younger. See the suggested supply lists on this page.

**Cleaning:** Clean toys and equipment after use every time, and to ensure the floor is clean and safe for babies to crawl on. Have a safe surface sanitizing spray and sanitizing wipes available.

**Advertise:** Update any literature to show times your nursery is available. If you run a newspaper advertisement, ensure the nursery is included.

**Childcare Nursery Form:** Create a basic registration form asking for parent’s cell phone numbers, feeding schedules, diapering/toileting requirements, food allergies, medical information. Keep completed forms accessible in the nursery so that the information is readily available to any nursery worker. The CCC has created a form you can download to use if you prefer. It is available in PDF or MS Word Format to enable you to adapt it if you prefer. It is available at:

[wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html](http://wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html)

Or by request from Diocesan Office 304-344-3597

### Basic Nursery Supplies:

- If no sink nearby, have hand sanitizer available
- Baby wipes
- Changing mat or dedicated area
- Surface cleaning supplies (disinfecting spray or wipes)
- Electrical outlet covers
- Age appropriate books
- Safe baby/toddler toys
- Ensure resources used are ethnically and racially diverse.
- Chairs for volunteers to sit on
- Trash can
- Bags for disposal of dirty diapers

### Optional Supplies:

- CD player and children’s music CD’s
- Spare diapers
- Pack-n-Play or crib (Ensure it meets current standards and has several sets of spare sheets. Keep washed sheets ready in a Ziploc bag and use fresh sheets each time.)
- Toddler height table and chairs
- Posters for decoration
- Consider providing a nursing area for parents or at least a comfortable chair.
- Potty chair or child toilet seats (to put on top of bowl)
- Step stool to help children reach the sink
- Larger indoor play equipment - plastic slide, play kitchen, block sets, etc. (from yard sales; sanitize properly and test for safety prior to using!)
- Plastic aprons for craft time
- Basic craft supplies
- Disposable sippy cups with lids for snack time





## Toddler Curriculums



Children are never too young to start learning. There are several good Toddler curriculums available for ages 1 and up such as ***Rock-a-Bye's Toddlers and Two's*** (for children aged 12 to 36 months) produced by Abingdon Press. The kit is \$60 for the year and includes posters, games, weekly curriculum and music. Available for purchase at:

[www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)

***Splash!*** by Augsburg Fortress is for children from birth to age 3. *Splash!* is designed specifically for families with infants and toddlers. The packs cover three age ranges: 1-12 months, 13-24 months and 25-36 months. Each *Splash!*-pack contains twelve issues of Parent Pages and a music CD. The monthly Parent Pages offer ideas for faith-filled play, worship, meals and prayer together. By mailing Parent Pages each month, congregations stay connected to young children and their families.

[www.augsburgfortress.org/education/splash/overview.jsp](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/education/splash/overview.jsp)

But you don't have to purchase a set curriculum. Have a CD player available and start singing easy Sunday School repetitive songs like "Jesus loves the Little Ones". When playing, remind them how much Jesus loves them, or look around the room and find all the things of a certain color that God has created. Start telling them the Bible stories using picture board books if available, or have coloring pages that they can scribble on with large crayons as you tell the story.

## Communicating With Parents

Reassure parents that you will inform them if there are any issues. Double check if there is anything you should know such as current medical issues, feeding schedule, diaper changing arrangements, etc. Ideally have a registration form so you have medical information and parental wishes on file as well as their contact information. The CCC has provided a registration form on their website which you can either print from PDF format, or download the Microsoft Word version to personalize the form to fit your needs.

[wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html](http://wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html)

For older toddlers, are you going to provide a drink or snack? If so check with the parent what their wishes are and if there are any restrictions.

As an alternative to sending a volunteer, you can use cell phones to contact parents if they are needed while in church. Ask parents to put their cell phones on silent vibrate but have them visible so that you can communicate by text or phone to indicate they should return to the nursery.

## Review Regularly

Review your nursery each year. Ensure you do this with your staff or volunteers as they will know what toys are being used regularly and can suggest new items needed. By including your staff/volunteers, you give them a sense of inclusion in the process as well as review the safety

procedures you have in place to ensure they are practical and working for everyone.

Throw out old toys and books that are beyond their best. Every few months, thoroughly sanitize the entire room and its contents including any carpet or rugs.

Are you still safely staffed? If you are caring for more children you may need additional staff. As children grow older they need different activities; do you need to update materials? Perhaps introduce some basic coloring or crafts or purchase a curriculum.



## MINISTERING TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

When setting up any children's program, be prepared to accept children with special needs.

The most common special need you will face is children with food allergies. The most common are gluten intolerance (can you ensure you have gluten free hosts available for communion?), tree nut allergies, peanut allergies and milk allergies. Given the prevalence of nut allergies, it is safest if you can educate everyone that your Sunday School area is nut free. If you provide snacks, ensure that they do not contain nuts and ask other parents to avoid bringing nuts in. For other allergies, make a notice somewhere so a child isn't accidentally given that item by a volunteer. If there is a parish meal, try to ensure there is child friendly food for all your children. Hot dogs are easy to keep in the freezer for such an occasion and will heat up quickly in the microwave, or keep individual tubs of Macaroni and Cheese on hand.

You may also get enquiries from parents with children who have physical special needs or learning disabilities. Where possible, try to work with the parent to learn about that child's individual needs and help to ensure they feel comfortable attending. Ask the parents for advice on how to deal with different situations. Families need all the support they can get, and they will be so grateful that their child is accepted and welcomed.

Several articles regarding children with special needs, including autism, can be found [www.buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org). Other helpful resources for the inclusion of children with special needs can be found at Amy Fenton Lee's blog - The Inclusive Church [www.theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com](http://www.theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com). From the Episcopal perspective, "*Rhythms of Grace*" by Audrey Scanlan and Linda Snyder offers great lesson plans and teacher training ideas for children, especially those with autism. The materials are suited for all children. This book can be found at [www.churchpublishing.org](http://www.churchpublishing.org)

Another resource for children with special needs is "*Child by Child: A Church Program Guide for Children with Learning Differences and Their Families*" written by Susan Richardson in 2011 and published by Morehouse, Church Publishing

## WHEN TO START A SUNDAY SCHOOL!

If you have no children who attend your church, be prepared to welcome the first one who wants to participate! You will only get one chance at showing a family that you welcome children, so at least have some children's materials ready for families to take and use in church when they arrive. Once a child has attended for a couple of weeks, talk to the parents about whether they would be interested in a short class during the word portion of the liturgy. If they are interested, you have a Sunday School!

If you already have young children for which you provide nursery care, but no Sunday School program, now is the time to start planning for one. You don't want to lose these families because there is nothing in place for them as they grow. The best approach is to introduce a toddler curriculum in the nursery to get you started, from which you can expand and grow to meet the needs of the children in your care.



### Is One Child Really Enough?

As a church we are called to proclaim the Gospel to children, in ways that empower them to receive and respond to God's love. Each and every child deserves our attention to guide them on this journey.

One child is all it takes to start a Sunday School Program. You don't even need a curriculum to start; choose a Bible story to read and print some activity sheets from one of the many online resources. Just remember the golden rule; always have two adults, especially with just one child.

### Our children are so varied in age...

If you have a few children who are varied in age, you may need a one classroom curriculum. It is more of a challenge to keep older children engaged and interested alongside toddlers, but a good curriculum can help. Once you get a program up and running, you will find it easier to recruit new volunteers who may be able to help split your group into more appropriate age groups.

Several members of the National Association of Episcopal Christian Education Directors (NAECED - See resources page) recommend the *Episcopal Children's Curriculum, Godly Play and Lesson Plans that Work* for small churches wanting to start a Sunday School. Reviews of these curriculums can be found on the following pages.

[www.KidsSundaySchool.com](http://www.KidsSundaySchool.com) provides easy lesson plans including printable activities and games and is another cost effective resource for starting a program quickly.

The CCC has started to collate a **resource list of curriculum materials** that churches have available to loan or give to another church in need. Contact Lucy Templeton (see back cover) to see if there is a curriculum you could use to get you started, or to list one that is gathering dust in your church!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL.... WHERE TO START!

Sunday school programs are dynamic as families come and go and children grow up, so careful review should be done each year to ensure you are using the best resources for the needs of your congregation. Do not be afraid to change just because the program has been used for the past twenty years!

### STARTING A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

**Sunday School is a team effort: form a committee!**

- ✘ Involve your vestry and Rector
- ✘ Invite older people without children
- ✘ Invite parents
- ✘ Consider who may be able or willing to teach

### Consider Your Vision For the Sunday School Program:

- ✘ What ages do you need to cater to?
- ✘ What purposes do you hope to fulfill?
- ✘ What do you hope to accomplish in your first year?

### Consider The Logistics:

- ✘ How many classes?
- ✘ Where will they meet?
- ✘ When will they meet?
- ✘ What will they be called?
- ✘ Available budget?



### Choose A Curriculum And Format For Your Ministry:

- ✘ Children's Chapel
- ✘ Curriculum style (Godly Play or classroom teaching, one class or divide age groups)
- ✘ How to integrate the children in Worship - if they are leaving or returning to church consider a prayer moment to dismiss or receive them.

### Prepare For The First Day:

- ✘ Get the space you are using ready
- ✘ Ensure teachers are prepared and have resources
- ✘ Advertise!
- ✘ Arrange Safeguarding God's Children Training

### Review:

- ✘ Are children attending on time?
- ✘ Are children engaged?
- ✘ Are children returning?
- ✘ Is your congregation aware and involved?
- ✘ Continue to review regularly, especially whenever your dynamics change (age of children, numbers)

### Q: DO WE HAVE ENOUGH CHILDREN? A: YES!

Each child deserves our ministry to help them grow in their faith. So if you only have one or two children, start small, and watch your program grow! Take joy in the change you can make in a single life.



## SCHEDULING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

One of the hardest questions is when to schedule your program and there are pros and cons to each. This will partly depend on your church facilities and how close your classroom area is to the worship area.



- *Classes before or after worship* will allow children to also participate in church and learn our wonderful liturgy. But today's over scheduled families may not all want to commit to being at church for so long or parents may want an opportunity to worship without distraction. This can work well if you have a concurrent Adult Education program. If you choose this option, you may like to consider providing Children's Chapel during the Word portion of the liturgy (see section on Children's Chapel).
- *Scheduling concurrently* with your main worship service may mean you will have a bigger attendance, but the downside is that children will not get used to being in church or learn our liturgy. You may choose to provide Children's Chapel as part of your program, return classes to church in time for communion or bring children into church for communion to mix the generations alternately.
- *A good middle option* is to start everyone in church together and dismiss children to class. They can then return before the offertory to take communion with their parents. This allows for shorter teaching time but works well for smaller schools.

There is no right or wrong way. You need to meet the current needs of your congregation and if what you are doing is not working, try a different approach! If you are truly open to change, consult your parents as to what they would like and support the most. Our diocese has churches modeling all the above combinations; we can try to connect you with a children's minister to discuss their experiences if you are considering a change.

## FINDING A HOME

If you have a room available to assign to Sunday School, then make it inviting. Posters, a fresh coat of colorful paint and a bulletin board (see Portable Bulletin Board on [page 17](#)) can make a big difference. If you don't have a spare room, use your fellowship hall and use items to make the space inviting each week. Wherever you use, make sure it is safe - a small room can work as long as there is either a window in the door or ensure that the door remains open and cannot be locked.

## ADVERTISE, ADVERTISE, ADVERTISE...

Whatever ministries you choose to provide, advertise repeatedly. Use your bulletins, website, mailings and emails to remind people of upcoming events and repeat the information each week leading up to the event. Do not presume once is enough!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUMS

If you have only a few children, you will probably need a one class program. As you grow, you may be able to resource more teachers and divide into classes of differing age groups. There is a wealth of material out there for you to use; some of it free on the internet and others which you can purchase very cheaply.

The Center for Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary provides summaries for a wide selection of different curriculums to provide a good starting point in your decision process. You can find this at:

[www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=119583](http://www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=119583)

The following is a list of some popular resources currently being used within our diocese:



### Episcopal Children's Curriculum (ECC)

Virginia Theological Seminary  
[www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=122314](http://www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=122314)

Produced by the Virginia Theological Seminary, this has now been discontinued in print. However the curriculum books and materials are available for free online until they publish a replacement program.

The ECC is available for three age groups: Preschool/Kindergarten (Ages 3 - 6), Primary (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades) And Intermediate (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades). For each age group, there are three years of material:

- ✧ Shell Year (in which Baptism is studied)
- ✧ Chalice Year (in which the Eucharist is studied)
- ✧ Cross Year (in which Worship is studied)

This format allows churches with multi-age classes to alternate study material over a 3-year cycle. The Shell, Chalice and Cross years may be used in any order.

Each year the curriculum is divided into four units: Old Testament, New Testament, Sacraments, and the Church. Every year also has material on the major events of the Church Year, including All Saints and Pentecost.

A child can study nine years of Sunday School without repeating a lesson plan. There is a book for each class which provides the lesson plans for that year. All the information needed to teach the class is well laid out for any volunteer to easily work with. There are multiple activity suggestions to support the lesson of the day including craft ideas, music time, reflection time etc. This allows teachers to choose a method of teaching to suit their ability and experience as well as allow for multiple teachers to take the class as each week's lessons are laid out in advance.

**ECC can be downloaded at:**

[www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=122314](http://www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=122314)

**Google Search "Episcopal Children's Curriculum"**



**GODLY PLAY**  
**"A Way to Wonder Together"**  
 Church Publishing  
[Godlyplay.org](http://Godlyplay.org)  
[Godlyplayresources.com](http://Godlyplayresources.com)  
 620-635-2593

Godly Play is a Montessori Method of spiritual formation for children developed by Episcopal priest, Jerome Berryman. Although it was intended for children ages 3-12, it can be used successfully with older children and in hospital and nursing home ministries.

The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using our religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action and to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Since its format follows the order of worship for the Eucharist service (getting ready - the Opening Acclamation; listening and responding to a Bible story - The Word of God; the Feast - the Holy Communion; and saying goodbye - the Blessing and Dismissal) it isn't just Sunday school, it is worship.

Godly Play opens up the Bible and our traditions for children in a way that allows them to explore and interact with our religious stories or parables using three-dimensional materials (which can be purchased or you can make yourself) and invites them into the stories by using open-ended questions such as **"I wonder ... where are you in this story?"** followed by a response time using various art materials, working with the stories themselves or journaling, the Feast, and then saying goodbye.

### How to Start Leading Godly Play

**Volume 1: The Complete Guide To Godly Play** (ISBN-13: 978-1889108957) will help teach you how to lead the Godly Play Program. There are several more volumes which provide the story scripts and lessons. The book is available from most bookshops and at:

[www.godlyplayresources.com](http://www.godlyplayresources.com)

If you are just starting out, you can call Godly Play Resources at **620-635-2593** for help and advice.

Several DVD's are also available for purchase which lead teachers through two actual Godly Play sessions. If you would like to view a video presentation of a Godly Play story being told, visit the Godly Play webpage on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/#!/GodlyPlay?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/#!/GodlyPlay?ref=ts) or you can go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search Godly Play. You can also purchase the official proposal to present the stories from [www.godlyplayresources.com](http://www.godlyplayresources.com) too. Some of these can be costly, but you can also create your own props to use.

### Godly Play Training

The CCC may be able to provide a training seminar in the diocese if enough interest is shown. Please contact Becki Krzywdik to register your interest or she would be happy to discuss this program further with you.



**WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES**  
 Church Publishing  
[www.weavinggodspromises.org](http://www.weavinggodspromises.org)  
 800-242-1918

- Engages children ages 3-11
- Offers teachers easy-to-follow lesson plans
- Shares the Biblical story of salvation
- Flexible and undated - appropriate anytime
- Is affordable to all size churches
- Weaves Episcopal tradition and practice throughout every lesson

*Weaving God's Promises* is a three-year Christian education program for children ages 3 (preschool) to 11-12 (5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade). The curriculum was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. It's titled *Weaving God's Promises* after the process of faith formation in which we learn how God's promises of salvation are inextricably woven into our lives.

The goal of *Weaving God's Promises* is to teach children the way of Christ, not only in the church but also in the world, and to give them a solid grounding for future youth formation programs, which in turn will prepare them for Christian adulthood.

*Weaving God's Promises* provides children with basic knowledge of Church teachings in the three elements essential to the practice of our faith. Each is dependent on the other in order for the faith to stand firmly:

1. Christian education
2. Worship
3. Service

More information and downloadable sample lessons are available by visiting [www.WeavingGodsPromises.org](http://www.WeavingGodsPromises.org)

## WORSHIPING WITH CHILDREN

[worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com](http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com)

**Web blog only – no other contact information available**

This blog spot by Carolyn Brown, author of "Forbid Them Not" is well worth visiting! Its sole purpose is to help us create meaningful worship experiences for all who come to church – children, youth, and adults allowing everyone to worship as full participants. There you will find suggestions on how to present the scripture to children in ways that the children will understand using the Revised Common Lectionary (or can be searched by scripture reading). This would also work well in the Sunday school setting.... and the best part of all is that it's FREE!



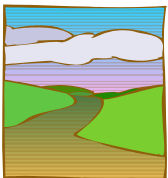
### SEEDLINGS

[www.seedlingsinc.com](http://www.seedlingsinc.com)  
(409)898-1293

Seedlings comes from the Episcopal tradition, originally developed

and published thanks to grants from the Episcopal Church Foundation and the United Thank Offering and designed for children from preschool through sixth grade. It is designed for small churches for children pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and can be used for as few children as two, but adaptable for larger classes.

- Biblically based four-year cycle gives an introduction to most major Bible stories & events
- Activities selected to encourage children to experience the feelings & attitudes of Biblical figures
- Moral and ethical perspective shaped by classic Biblical theology
- Self-contained units may be used in any sequence for Sundays or Vacation Bible School
- Encourages teachers to adapt for their own interests and talents as well as those of the children
- Variety of activities with little or no expense.
- Flexible, Biblically based, and one third of unit materials teach on non-Biblical subjects: The saints, sacraments, traditions and customs of the Church, its worship, prayer, and polity.
- Can be adapted for use in intergenerational settings for Sundays or holidays



### STORY PATH

[www.storypath.wordpress.com](http://www.storypath.wordpress.com)  
*Website only*

Story Path is a children's literature resource for ministry of Union Presbyterian Seminary and The William Smith Morton Library. There you will find along with many titles of children and adolescent literature, reviews and ideas to help make connections to Biblical stories and many aspects of Christian faith and life, comments and lectionary links. You may already have these books or be able to find them in your local library. If not, each title is available for purchase from Amazon, most at a very reasonable price especially if you order from their new & used section (which most often offers brand new books at a cheaper price from other book vendors).



### ALL THINGS NEW

[www.morehouseeducation.org/allthingsnew](http://www.morehouseeducation.org/allthingsnew)

*Order materials through*  
[www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)

All Things New is a program for children from preschool through sixth grade, offers a rich mix of age-appropriate activities centered on scripture and Christian "basics." Simple, easy-to-use

components with contemporary graphics help time-pressured faith-formation leaders learn the basics they need to be effective leaders. Innovative components include poster packets of fine-art reproductions, an Interactive CD for music and movement, a Parent Poster that consists of a calendar to link your faith-formation program with the home, and the children's prayer book, Kids Prayer book. Sessions are available for each age group for the seasons of Fall, Winter, and Spring.



### LIVE B.I.G.

[www.ilivebig.com](http://www.ilivebig.com)  
Cokesbury, 800-251-8591

*Available Age Groups:*

3 - 4, 5- 6, 7 - 8, 9 - 10, "Twins" (11 - 13), Mixed-Age

Live B.I.G. uses Bible stories to help children learn about the love of God. Using a DVD resource and stories from the Bible, teachers and children can explore how the Bible can be a model for contemporary life. The curriculum also uses Christian role models to engage children and provides a deeper understanding of Jesus and the impact he can have on their lives. It is designed to encourage children to encounter God for themselves. Live B.I.G. leads children to experience God through Jesus and the Bible, relationships with others, praise and worship, and God's creation.

*Curriculum parts include:*

- DVD kit for each grade level contains 12 DVDs, one per month from September through August, plus one Fall Leader's Guide (that is reproducible) and one Fall Kids' Book (additional books must be ordered for each child in the class).
- Leader Guides
- Student Books
- Bongo classroom puppet
- Classroom decorating pack
- Live B.I.G. Banner & Live B.I.G. Tween Dog Tags





**LIVING THE GOOD NEWS**  
*Lectionary*  
**Morehouse Educational Resources**  
800-824-1813  
[www.morehouseeducation.org](http://www.morehouseeducation.org)  
[www.livingthegoodnews.com](http://www.livingthegoodnews.com)

*Age groups available:*

- ♦ Nursery (ages 2-3)
- ♦ Preschool/Kindergarten (ages 4-5)
- ♦ Primary (grades 1-3)
- ♦ Intermediate (grades 4-6)

This is a lectionary-based curriculum available in both a Catholic and Revised Common Lectionary version. Sold by the quarter, fall through spring, it provides a lesson plan for each Sunday based upon the three readings and the psalm. For enrichment, the lesson plan also includes poems, art (on posters) and music (from CD).

*Multi-Age Leader's Guide Curriculum parts:*

- A. Leader's guide for each age group
- B. Take home papers for each age group
- C. Poster packets for each age group
- D. Enhanced CD set, including music, stories and videos (one for all age groups)
- E. Singing the Good News songbook (one for all age groups, for each year)
- F. Singing the Good News CD (selected songs from the songbook)

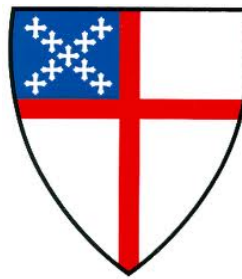


**WORKSHOPCYCLES**  
*Rotation Based*  
[www.leaderresources.org](http://www.leaderresources.org)  
800-941-2218

Ages: K – 5th grade

WorkshopCycles is a rotation-style curriculum designed to incorporate the spiritual development of children with creative activities while engaging children in new levels of learning and retention. Children explore a Bible story or concept for 4-6 weeks while using a variety of learning approaches. WorkshopCycles offers seven workshop centers to select from art, computer, drama, movie, story, kitchen, and music.

*Testimony* ~ “Workshop Cycles was a great way for our small church in Michigan to engage the entire congregation in children's ministry. We concentrated on one workshop at a time. We polled the congregation for their special talents and invited the members of the community to offer workshops based on their gifts. We went from a small group of women trying to make church school work to an entire congregation being invested in Christian Formation. It was an amazing transformation.”



**LESSON PLANS THAT WORK**  
*Lectionary Based*  
[www.episcopalchurch.org/lesson-plans](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/lesson-plans)  
800-334-7626 (ext. 6181)

The exciting lesson plans follow the Revised Common Lectionary and are easy to use. They are free to download from the above website. Three lessons (Young Children, Older Children, and Adults) are provided for each Sunday as well as intergenerational lessons for some major feast days.



**SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT**  
*Lectionary Based*  
[www.SpiritSeasons.com](http://www.SpiritSeasons.com)  
866-505-7687  
[www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)  
800-409-5346

*Age Levels:* Birth - Age 2, Multiage (5-12),  
Ages 3-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11

*Seasons of the Spirit* is a tool that can add inspiration to your Worship & Christian education and outreach because it:

- Offers resources for 52 weeks of the year
- Connects faith to life
- Nurtures imagination & creativity through the arts
- Offers flexibility, choices & ease of use
- Includes leader support & training
- Includes resources from birth to adult & multi-ages
- Offers Bible stories that are age appropriate
- Provides great value for your money spent
- Supports and encourages stewardship and care of the earth
- Addresses what it means to be Christian in a pluralistic world
- Includes resources for worship leaders, Christian educators, outreach leaders, & parents
- Current and contemporary- written new each year

### **KEEP REVIEWING!**

Once you have chosen your curriculum, keep reviewing it! Is it working for you? Is it engaging the children? Are your teachers finding it simple to use? You have to be willing to change when needed to be successful – just because that curriculum was used 10 years ago, it doesn't make it the right one for your Sunday School today!

## NOW YOU NEED TEACHERS...

### Consistency

The first misconception is that you need to have the same teacher in a class year round for consistency. You will be very blessed if you find a volunteer willing to commit all year, and you will need to be extremely supportive to ensure they don't burn out quickly!

Consistency can be achieved with a carefully chosen curriculum and adopting a standard format for each class. With good resources in place, rotating teachers works well. Consistency can also be maintained by one person who oversees the program. They can relay information between teachers, call meetings, coach new volunteers on expectations and routines and perhaps be the person to welcome the children each week before going to church. Yes, it is better if a few people teach regularly on rotation, but you have to utilize the volunteers you have and respect the level of commitment they are willing to give. Four week blocks are pretty manageable for most people and a good place to start.

### How to find teachers... and keep them!

I often hear adults claim that they received more from teaching Sunday School than they gave. Calling volunteers to ministry should be done prayerfully, finding ways to incorporate their personal gifts. Here are a few ideas to help:

- ✧ Educate your congregation that Children's Ministries are a parish wide commitment. Everyone has a responsibility even if it is just to greet our children with a smile and welcome them in our community. Ensure the congregation is included, not excluded and they may be more receptive.
- ✧ A good curriculum will help you recruit volunteers. With support and resources in place, you enable new teachers to easily prepare for their lesson.
- ✧ Educate your congregation on the curriculum you have chosen so they can believe in it and support you too.
- ✧ Do not pre-judge! Ask anyone you think may be suitable even if *you* think they may not be interested. Don't forget older people who may welcome the opportunity and have unique gifts to offer.
- ✧ Ask parents to volunteer once in the year - they may get hooked too!
- ✧ It is essential to reassure potential volunteers that they are part of a team and will not bear total responsibility.
- ✧ Offer a Teacher Education session - show firsthand the curriculum and how to prepare a sample lesson plan; include photos or video if you have a current program. Bring in current teachers for a question session.
- ✧ Remember to recognize your teachers. You can remember them by name in the Prayers of the People as they start their teaching session or put a note in the bulletin each week. Parishioners may not otherwise realize who is teaching.

- ✧ At the end of the year, hold a Teacher Recognition Service and present each teacher with an appreciation card and perhaps a token gift.
- ✧ Keep up communication. Keep teachers, parents and your congregation updated in publications (worship bulletins, bulletin boards, newsletters, emails). You have to keep everyone excited and involved!
- ✧ Contact teachers regularly to discuss their ministry and offer support.
- ✧ Use the resources the CCC can offer you; we can answer questions and provide more resources on specific subjects if requested. We plan to offer periodic workshops on children's ministry.
- ✧ Keep the congregation involved; get the children to perform or sing something they have prepared in Sunday School.

*More tips for recruiting/keeping teachers available:  
[www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/IN-Formation/CallingTeachersToMinistry.pdf](http://www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/IN-Formation/CallingTeachersToMinistry.pdf)*

## IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

Wonderful teachers need not receive formal training, become an expert on child development, or even harbor a wealth of knowledge. Rather, they need simply maintain a positive attitude, express genuine interest in the relationship, and be receptive to the children in their lives. Therefore, your principal objective as a teacher in a Christian context is to provide love, support, and guidance to the children entrusted to your care. These attributes are essential to the foundation of a genuine, enduring, mutually beneficial relationship with children and adults alike.

Healthy child development which encompasses social, intellectual, physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, and behavioral growth, is dependent upon the quality and reliability of a child's early relationships with the important persons in his/her life.

Relationships have an invaluable impact on young children because they offer individualized experiences based on a child's unique personality and interests, enhance a child's self awareness, and stimulate the growth of a child's heart and mind.

You may never fully realize the impact you have on a child. Your influence may appear to be subtle, or even undetectable to an observer. Take heart, though. However seemingly futile your efforts may feel or frustrated you become, remember that you have made an attempt to show a child that he/she is loved. They will never forget the way you made them feel.

*This information is taken from the Diocesan Forum (2007) entitled "Enhancing Our Relationships with Children," by Andrea L. Burch. The DVD and accompanying resource packet are available to borrow from the Diocesan Office.*

## SUMMER FUN SUNDAY SCHOOL



The summer arrives and Sunday School ends for the pro-gram year. Families are all going to be busy so why provide any programming? If you usually provide Sunday School concurrently with worship, you could risk losing some of your families over the summer break.

A full-scale program is not needed; consider running a one class short session Summer Fun Sunday School. Children can be dismissed from church and meet under a shady tree for a change of pace for example. Here are some ideas:

- ❖ Use a different curriculum if you need ideas; [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) has great resources you can use either as entire lesson plans or just as a short craft or activity and there may be enough in their free section to last the summer.
- ❖ Purchase some ready prepared craft kits from a craft store or [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) for example and run a short craft session each week.
- ❖ Choose a book and read a portion aloud each week; try to find one that you can finish in time!
- ❖ If you are preparing for VBS, let the children help make decorations. They will love taking ownership!
- ❖ If you have only a few children, consider asking your regular nursery staff if they could occupy some older children too.
- ❖ Hold a cooking school and get children to help make cookies, sandwiches (unleavened bread is easy to make!) or snacks for coffee hour. Some great teaching can be achieved in the kitchen!
- ❖ Make communion bread with the children (see sample recipe below).
- ❖ See if any of your parishioners have skills they would like to share with the children; origami, making kites, woodwork, and gardening.

Whatever you do, keep it fun; children need a break from the regular routine too. This can be a wonderful opportunity to unwittingly show potential volunteers how much fun teaching Sunday School can be!

### COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

1 package dry yeast	1 ½ cups warm water
3 ½ cups flour	1 tsp. salt
1 cup grated Cheddar cheese	

Dissolve yeast in water. Stir in flour, salt and cheese. Knead dough until smooth. Add more flour a little at a time, if too sticky. Break off small pieces and give to each child. Let the kids make dough into Christian shapes on a piece of wax paper. Place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 425 degrees for 10-15 minutes, depending on the size & ahapes.

## SEASONAL EVENTS

There are several organizations and companies recommended to provide resources for seasonal activities. More information about these groups is in the Resource section at the back of this book:

- ✧ Candle Press (inexpensive)
- ✧ Leader Resources (moderately priced)
- ✧ NAECED National Association of Episcopal Christian Education Directors
- ✧ Center for the Ministry of Teaching, VA Theological Seminary (free)
- ✧ Skiturgies: Pageants, Plays, Rites, and Rituals” is a collection of downloadable resources to use throughout the church year that have been developed by Christian educators and children’s ministry leaders. Go to [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) and type “skiturgies” in the search engine. Each activity is priced individually.

### St. Francis Blessing of the Animals

**October 4th**



Invite the public to bring their animal friends to a special outdoor liturgy when the pets will be blessed. Children with-out pets should be encouraged to bring a loved stuffed animal or friend to be blessed. A great community event and you may even get some publicity for it.

**Happy**



**Thanksgiving**

**THANKSGIVING** - A free downloadable resource is “Thanksgiving and Food” developed by the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice network, [www.nccusa.org/news/061132foodgratit](http://www.nccusa.org/news/061132foodgratit)

### ADVENT ~ Teach children the art of waiting!



- Make an Advent Calendar; think along the lines of Chutes and Ladders and the children can cover each day’s square with a religious sticker or color in with a crayon each day. Make it in the shape of a wreath or Christmas tree and add a prayer for each week.
- Purchase an Advent Calendar from a Christian bookstore.
- Make a Jesse Tree. You can print the symbols on card from [www.eriescd.org/jesstree.htm](http://www.eriescd.org/jesstree.htm) and hang using thread or wool. Or use the symbols to make an Advent calendar.
- Make an Advent Wreath: [www.christiancrafters.com/adventwreath.htm](http://www.christiancrafters.com/adventwreath.htm)
- Safe felt Advent wreath for children: [www.thesatinbutton.com/fabric-advent-wreath-p-1297.html](http://www.thesatinbutton.com/fabric-advent-wreath-p-1297.html) (or search online for Fabric Advent Wreath)



- **“Light a Candle”** from the To Go series by Candle Press
- **“What We Do in Advent”** by Anne Kitch (ISBN -13: 978-0819221957 available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- **Advent Calendar Activity Sheet** by Liturgy Training Publications [www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org)
- **“When All the World Was Waiting: An Advent Book for Children”** by Dorothy Van Woerkom (ISBN-13: 978- 0570034742 available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”** by Barbara Laufersweiler, [www.faith-at-home.com/tips/advent.html](http://www.faith-at-home.com/tips/advent.html)
- **“Book of Faith Advent Reflectons: I Wonder as I Wander”**, 2010, Augsburg Fortress. One of the family activities is “Wonderful Luminaries: Hope Shines in the Darkness”.



**ST. NICHOLAS DAY ~ December 6th**  
[www.stnicholascenter.org](http://www.stnicholascenter.org) has every resource you will need for a wonderful St. Nicholas celebration.

## CHRISTMAS



- **“Christmas - the Season”** from the “To Go series” by Candle Press
- **“Bright Star Night: Christmas-Time Prayers for Little Children”** by Lois Rock (ISBN-13: 978-0745937311 available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- Finding the right Christmas play can be challenging for every congregation. The following website lists a number of simple, free, downloadable plays that have a variety of cast members, messages, and props. [www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/christmas/plays/index.html](http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/christmas/plays/index.html) click on Religious Christian Christmas
- How about tasking older children with writing and presenting their own version of a pageant?
- If you do not want to prepare a scripted piece or have children who just attend on Christmas Eve, have some basic costumes ready and dress children as they arrive. As the story is narrated, the animals, shepherds, angels and Mary and Joseph can walk down the aisle and sit in the sanctuary. No acting required! Cheap costumes from [orientaltrading.com](http://orientaltrading.com) but you have to buy early as they always sell out. Alternatively, ask for volunteers to sew some basic tunics to be used year after year.
- A particularly good play is **“Go Tell It on the Mountain: Three Christmas Pageants for**

**Church Schools”** by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard. The three versions of the Christmas Pageant are adaptable for different aged and sized groups; a CD of music is included.

- Other plays can be found in the book, **“Christmas on Stage: An Anthology of Royalty-Free Christmas Plays for All Ages”** by Theodore O. Zapel, available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



## EPIPHANY

**“Epiphany - the Season”** from the “To Go series” by Candle Press



## SHROVE TUESDAY

- Have children serve at a pancake dinner
- Consider holding a tradition pancake tossing completion or race.



## ASH WEDNESDAY

- **“Ash Wednesday”** from the “To Go series”, by Candle Press

## LENT



- **“What We Do in Lent”** by Anne Kitch (ISBN-13: 978-0819222787 available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- **“Sharing the Easter Faith with Children: Helping Children Observe Lent and Celebrate Easter”** by Carolyn C. Brown (ISBN-13: 978-0687344246 available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) This publication includes many activities including a reproducible “A Journey through Holy Week” for families at home.
- **“Forty Days and Forty Nights: A Lenten Ark Moving Toward Easter”** by Liturgical Training Publications. A Lenten - Easter calendar

## EASTER



- **Through the Cross and Easter – the Season** from the To Go series by Candle Press
- **The Easter Story** by Brian Wildsmith. A beautifully written story of Holy Week and Easter with magnificent illustrations suitable for young children .
- (ISBN-13: 978-0802851895 available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- **Sharing the Easter Faith with Children, Helping Children Observe Lent and Celebrate Easter** by Carolyn C. Brown. (ISBN-13: 978-0687344246 from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- **“Garden of the Good Shepherd: A Sticker Calendar to Count the Fifty Days of Easter”** Liturgical Training Publications [www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org)



## PENTECOST

- **Pentecost** from the “To Go Series” by Candle Press
- Flame and Dove kites (you can make your own and attach to lightweight fishing rod or Friends of the Groom sells them). Used for all processions and appropriate hymns.
- At the Peace: make signs that say “PEACE” in multiple languages. When the Peace is exchanged, children stand up on the pews, in sort of a wave effect, and one after another hold up their signs and say peace in the different tongues.
- Liturgical dancers: talented teenaged dancers have costumes designed to look like flames (red, yellows, oranges). Working with an adult choreographer and the music director, they have followed the procession in and back out of the church.
- An idea from a church: last year 9 children processed large foam core posters in with a dove on the back of each and one of the fruits of the spirit painted on the front. Ribbons and tulle attached to top suggested fire. When they reached the front of the church they circled around the side and hung (using paper clip hooks) their signs on the side aisle windows)
- Teach the children to sign The Lord's Prayer as it is sung in a really beautiful Taize piece (Pater Noster ...).
- Flame wavers (long craft sticks with red, yellow and orange crepe paper streamers attached for the kids to wave during hymns.
- Birthday cake immediately following service to celebrate the birthday of the church.

## OTHER TEACHING RESOURCES

- **“Let’s Celebrate”** from the “To Go series” by Candle Press - Thanksgiving, Advent, Chanukah, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and May Day
- **Celebrating Seasons E-Book** - Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter by electronic download only [www.leaderresources.org/ebookswezeman](http://www.leaderresources.org/ebookswezeman)
- **The Episcopal Teacher** newsletter from the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at VA Theological Seminary published quarterly with great seasonal activities (free: mailed to you or on their website)



**ANIMAL CRACKERS**  
**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**  
[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) 800-422-0474

“Animal Crackers” is a complete set of lesson plans for a five session Bible school, Sunday school or weekday program. It helps children see themselves as part of the global family and gain a deeper appreciation of the ways Heifer International helps people, animals and plants live in harmony as God’s good creation. (free)  
[www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.201561/](http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.201561/)

## STEWARDSHIP

[www.buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org)

Building Faith has numerous articles on stewardship. The website is [buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org); type stewardship in search engine. Examples are “Children and Stewardship”, Generations of Faith:, “Good News from on High”, and “The Price of Stewardship”.

**“Growing a Grateful Generous Heart”** from Morehouse, Church Publishing includes a Leader’s Guide and Children’s Papers for each grade and a Parent/Family Resource. Design your own simple pledge card for children.

Our own Diocesan Commission on Stewardship also provides another available resource. Go to [www.wvdiocese.org/pages/stewardship.html](http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/stewardship.html) for contact information and to find links to their Lenten Program resource for children.

## INTER-FAITH LEARNING

Resources about inter-faith learning include the following:

- [www.EpiscopalSchools.org](http://www.EpiscopalSchools.org) - National Association of Episcopal Schools
- [www.TheGuibordCenter.org](http://www.TheGuibordCenter.org) - Guibord Center, St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral, Diocese of Los Angeles,
- [www.WorldSabbath.org](http://www.WorldSabbath.org) - World Peace Village, click on Children of Peace

## BOOKS

- [www.storypath.wordpress.com](http://www.storypath.wordpress.com)  
This recent survey of children's books is suitable for use in a religious context. The website gives different categories such as appropriate age ranges or subjects to help you search for relevant books.
- [www.PrayerBookGuide.com](http://www.PrayerBookGuide.com)  
Short review of Sunday lessons with suggestions for reflection and action by Sharon Pearson

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Vacation Bible School is a huge commitment, but if you have the volunteers this is a wonderful way to outreach and provide a program for children in your community.

### Curriculums

There are several large companies that provide a ready to purchase program each year, or you can develop a theme of your own. The biggest benefit of the purchased programs is that you can pick and choose from the ideas and resources they provide without you having to reinvent the wheel. Many other companies such as ***OrientalTrading.com***, S & S Arts & Crafts ***www.ssw.com/christian-activities/*** and ***Guildcraftinc.com*** provide additional materials to compliment the main themes each year. The music can also breathe life into your program; many packages now provide DVDs to help you teach the children sign language and dance moves.

The main three providers each year are:

<b><i>www.vbs.group.com</i></b>	<b><i>800-447-1070</i></b>
<b><i>www.lifeway.com/vbs</i></b>	<b><i>800-458-2772</i></b>
<b><i>www.cokesburyvbs.com</i></b>	<b><i>800-672-1789</i></b>

### Curriculum Reviews

The Center for the Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary offers a VBS fair each year and publishes its recommendations and reviews online. Here is the link to the 2012 reviews for information:

***www.vts.edu/ftpimages/95/download/VBS%20reviews%202012,%20web.pdf*** (or go to ***www.vts.edu/cmt*** and look for the VBS Fair review link.)

***www.ministry-to-children.com*** also reviews curriculums from all the major providers each year.

### Team Up!

Consider teaming up with another church to provide VBS. You may also like to check which dates other churches are providing VBS and what they are doing to avoid unnecessary competition.

If your budget is tight, solicit donations! Wal-Mart, Sams Club, Kroger's and even Target are great at making donations if you ask early enough. Chick-fil-A often provides free food to VBS programs.

### Sharing VBS Resources Around Our Diocese

The CCC would like to start compiling a list of VBS resources available around the diocese. After each VBS, many of us are left with curriculum materials or decorations that we either hold onto if they are generic enough for possible use in future years or throw away. It would be wonderful if we could each year collate which programs our Diocesan churches are offering, then put churches choosing the same program in contact so they can share the costs of decorations, or we can identify other resources from previous years that could be useful to borrow. Contact Lucy Templeton (see back page)

### Advertise Continually!

VBS is a great opportunity to bring new children into your church, but it is an outreach project and you need to ensure you reach your target families! Make sure the information includes how and when to register, times and dates, contact phone and web address, and ages of children. Use language suitable to the theme and make it sound exciting.

Free local newspapers are a great way to spread the word before your event. All local TV station websites also have a community calendar you can submit your event to. If you can, put a banner up visibly on or near your church. Put up posters on community bulletin boards in grocery stores and libraries. Print posters or invitation cards for your families to hand out to their friends. Distribute flyers to a targeted neighborhood. Start up a Facebook events page to help spread the word. Most importantly, put it on your church website! Contact local news stations or newspapers as your program starts with a press release... if they are short on news they may come and cover your story!

### Safety First!

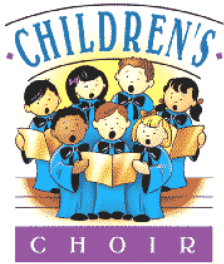
- Be aware of adult volunteers that you are not familiar with. Make sure they are never given an opportunity to be alone with children (including volunteer teenagers). Similarly, make sure all your volunteers are easily recognizable using a name badge or specific t-shirt for example.
- While Safeguarding God's Children Training is not required for VBS, it is highly recommended. At least ensure the director and if possible class teachers attend training. Ensure the basic guidelines are adhered to.
- Make sure you have emergency contact, medical and allergy information on file. You will need the parent's cell phone number as many will not return home. If providing a snack, avoid all products containing nuts as a precaution.
- If you have a fairly large program, be careful of how children are released at the end of the session. Make sure you hand them over to a designated adult and not let them just run off. Provide a collection card with the child's name on for the authorized adult to show as they collect their child.

### VBS ALTERNATIVES

If you do not have the resources to provide a full VBS program, consider running a one day program either in the summer or on a Saturday. Teacher in-service days are also a great time to offer programs. The popular holidays and celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day or even Halloween can provide some good opportunities, or utilize a quiet time of the year for a special event. Once you choose a theme, come up with a fun way of teaching the lesson you wish to communicate. Find crafts and some fun games and then advertise! Parents are always looking for something fun to do in the fall and winter particularly, and this is a great way to reach out to local families.



## ADDITIONAL CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND MUSIC

If you would like to introduce music but do not have anyone with experience to choose suitable material, consider searching the internet for "VBS Music DVDs" from previous years. Usually, only a couple of the songs were written for the VBS theme, and the rest are well

known Christian Songs. The video adds some excitement for the children as well as shows them the words on the screen, and many of them teach sign language as part of the dance moves.

Cedaromont Kids produce some great children's music CDs. Check out their website at [www.cedarmont.com](http://www.cedarmont.com) to see their full range. Popular CDs include Sunday School Songs, Action Bible Songs, Bible Songs, Songs of Praise, Hymns and Christmas Favorites. The CDs are available widely in many of the Christian stores in malls.

Another resource is your choir. Someone may be willing to work with the children for an hour after church. You do not have to have a full time children's choir; consider meeting for two or three weeks before an event to prepare a piece to be performed.

"*My Heart Sings Out*", written by Fiona Vidal-White and "*Music by Heart*", are great music resources both available from Church Publishing.

The following is a link to "*Awake My Soul*" - a liturgical resource for use with children and adults. On pages 13 and 14, they list hymns suitable to use even with very young children. Most of them have refrains that are very easy to pick up. [www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/MYP\\_Awake\\_My\\_Soul\(1\).pdf](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/MYP_Awake_My_Soul(1).pdf)

### HAND BELL RINGING

Color coded children's hand bells are a wonderful way of introducing children to church music and to present something new to your congregation. Each child is assigned a colored bell, and as the music CD is played, a card is held up to indicate which bells should be rung. They continue to ring as long as the card is displayed, a beat count is shown on the back for the person directing. Children as young as 3 can participate. Saint Matthews in Charleston uses:

**Kristal Bell Method, Co.**

[www.kristalbellmethod.com](http://www.kristalbellmethod.com)

1-800-574-7825



## MIDWEEK CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

These can provide a wonderful opportunity for children to build their relationship with their Rector, especially if due to scheduling the Rector is not able to interact during Sunday School. Depending on the need within your congregation, you could do a weekly, monthly or even quarterly event. Combining fun and faith is a perfect way for the rector to interact with the children in a relaxed setting with an opportunity for them to teach the children too.

For younger children, keep sessions short. A sample plan might be as follows:

**4:30—4:35 Gathering Time.** Let the kids blow off some energy. Perhaps have a game prepared.

**4:35—4:50 Group teaching time.** Make it fun; for example dress up children as monks or in nativity costumes to act out a story, use games to illustrate the lesson or find lots of props to demonstrate a seasonal lesson.

**4:50—5:10 Craft Time.** Search online for suitable ideas for crafts that will reinforce your theme. Crafts which allow the children to be creative by choosing from a variety of provided supplies are always successful and require less preparation work.

**5:10—5:15 Take a group photo** of the children with their craft or dressed up. While this is happening, parents can start to clean up the craft tables if they are needed for food.

**5:15—5:30 Pizza Party** and verbal review of the hour.

Encourage children to invite their friends to accompany them. This will help to advertise your children's ministries as well as outreach into your community.

## CHILDREN'S PRAYER IN CHURCH

If you do not have alternative programming during worship, consider calling children forward for a Children's Moment before The Peace. A short question session or just a prayer circle can make the children feel involved, as well as allow them to greet other parishioners with a sign of the Peace as they return to their seats. This is a great way to help all the generations to interact.

## ADOPT A "CHILDREN WELCOME" POLICY

You will really send a welcoming message to parents if you ensure that their children are catered for at all appropriate events at your church. For example, make that extra effort to provide kid friendly alternative food at a meal, or provide a separate children's event with childcare if kids are not able to participate in a particular activity. If you are having a summer picnic, provide some outdoor games or bubbles for younger children. If you are able, rent a Jupiter jump!

Be aware that some parents have limited support network or baby sitter availability and may be unable to attend an event if childcare is not provided. Perhaps you could give community service hours to two teenagers in return for them babysitting at the church to enable parents to participate.

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children's Chapel is gathering children during a portion of the worship service with activities appropriate for their age. It usually involves presenting the same liturgy being used for adults in a more child friendly manner. A sample liturgy can be found on [www.naeced.org/downloads/confhandouts2010/Childrens\\_Chapel\\_Order\\_of\\_Worship.pdf](http://www.naeced.org/downloads/confhandouts2010/Childrens_Chapel_Order_of_Worship.pdf)

Recommended resources include the following:

- ✧ ***A Time with Our Children, Stories for Use in Worship*** (Year A, Year B, and Year C). They are lectionary based and have a very simple, short story which works well for Children's Chapel. Inexpensive. (Available from [www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com))
- ✧ ***Building a Children's Chapel: One Story at a Time*** by Bill Gordh. Two copies of this book and a DVD of Bill Gordh's forum at the Diocesan Convention may be borrowed from the Diocesan office. (Purchase is through Church Publishing.)
- ✧ ***Celebrate the Good News: Children's Chapel***, curriculum from Morehouse Education Resources. (Sometimes available from [www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com))
- ✧ ***"Get Ready! Get Set! Worship!"*** A Resource for Including Children in Worship for Pastors, Educators, Parents, Sessions and Committees by Sue Lou and others. (ISBN-13: 978-0664500061 from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- ✧ ***"Liturgy for the Whole Church: Multigenerational Resources for Worship"*** by Susan Bock. (ISBN-13: 978-0898696028 from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))
- ✧ ***"The Talking Stick: 40 Children's Sermons with Activities"*** by Randy Hammer. (ISBN-13: 978-0829817614 from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- ✧ ***"The Complete Children's Liturgy Book: Liturgies of the Word for years A, B, C"*** by Katie Thompson (ISBN-13: 978-0896226951 from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))
- ✧ ***"The Liturgy Of The Word With Children: A Complete 3 Year Program Following The Lectionary"*** by Katie Thompson (ISBN-13: 978-1585957002 from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))
- ✧ Any number of children's worship bulletins, an example is [www.ChildrensBulletins.com](http://www.ChildrensBulletins.com)
- ✧ Any of the Sunday School resources in this book.
- ✧ Children's worship services available from the CCC by individual request.

### Children's Creed

I believe in God above;  
I believe in Jesus' love;  
I believe his Spirit too  
Comes to teach us what to do.  
I believe that I should be  
Kind and loving, Lord like thee

## CHILDREN'S SERMONS

One of the great ways to give children a sense of being included in a congregation's life is helping them realize that they too are an important part of the congregation and the worship experience. They need to hear "The Word of God" in language they can understand. This can be done by regularly devoting some of the worship time to them. A children's sermon works very well. To devote some of the worship experience solely to children allows them to truly know they are an intricate part of the life of the church. It is also an opportunity to teach the children on their level well rounded lectionary based Bible lessons and how it applies to their young lives. Telling the stories of the Bible are important, yet teaching them the lessons of the Bible and how to apply it to their lives are as equally important. As we all know, children are intuitive. The earlier we teach them how to relate to the Gospel the better.

There are several creative ways to incorporate a children's sermon into the worship experience. One of the traditional ways is the priest calls the kids up after the Gospel lesson before he give his sermon, sets them down around him in an informal manner and teaches them one of the lessons they just heard. This takes some preparation and sometimes some objects that children can connect to (a doll, toy, picture etc.) One will be surprised of the responses that come from the children and how much they pay attention.

A children's sermon doesn't have to come from the priest. Anyone who feels they can teach in this setting can give a sermon to the kids. It probably would be advisable to work with the priest on the curriculum and content of the sermons. There are also other times during the worship experience to include the children with a sermon. Some congregations have one Sunday a month solely dedicated to a children's sermon instead of a regular homily. This too has been shown to be effective. Each congregation has its own autonomy, and incorporating a children's sermon may need some experimenting to find what works best.

There is an unlimited amount of resources on the internet regarding children's sermons. Simply Google children's sermons and find what suits your needs. It is recommended to find a resource that is lectionary based. This helps keep continuity with the whole worship experience. Just be cautious to ensure a resource is suitable for our Episcopal tradition. One that the CCC would recommend is [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com) (see resources section.) It gives weekly sermons from the three year lectionary cycle. It also has free downloads for Sunday School (puzzles, coloring books, etc.) that match the scripture lessons.



## INTER-GENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

As we discussed earlier, the responsibility for successful Children's Ministry lies in the hands of the entire congregation. This is not going to be achieved if the children are rarely seen, or their achievements not celebrated. Here are some suggestions of how to share experiences across all your generations:

- ☺ Display art and class work where it can be seen by all. If necessary make a portable bulletin wall that can be displayed (see end of this page)
- ☺ Ensure that children are included in church. For example, don't let them sink back in after Sunday School, but welcome them with a prayer circle.
- ☺ If you don't have programming concurrent to worship, encourage children to help serve periodically alongside Greeters, Ushers etc.
- ☺ Have the children make get well cards for sick parishioners, or even birthday cards for elderly parishioners if you are a small parish.
- ☺ On Mother's Day, arrange for children to hand out a small gift to all the women in the church during announcements (single stem carnation, Mother's Day Bookmarks, children produced tissue paper flowers or cards.) If anyone claims they are not a Mother; tell them they are adopted mothers for Sunday School!
- ☺ Don't forget Father's Day too - an individual wrapped chocolate is always gratefully received!
- ☺ Let older children make announcements of upcoming children's events.
- ☺ Consider involving the children in a Children's Sermon where they help to present or act it out.
- ☺ Mother/Daughter Celebration: Invite all generations of mothers/daughters to come and celebrate over a meal. If someone doesn't have a suitable other, adopt one for the day!
- ☺ Help the children bake some cookies to fill a "Giving Plate". Present to someone in church along with a handmade card that explains to the recipient that the children hope they enjoy the gift, and ask them to then refill the plate to pass on to another parishioner. Ask for it to stay within your church community, and leave a space on the card for parishioners to fill in the name of who they are passing it onto. That way people can look to find a family that has not previously participated. Encourage the plate to be passed on each week and see how many it feeds. Any plate will do, but you can purchase sharing plates online by searching Giving Plate.
- ☺ If the children participate in an Outreach Project, ensure they present it when they are finished to the congregation. For example, bring canned food



donations up to the altar in a wagon for a blessing, Make a display board to register their progress towards a certain goal, and let the children bring it into church when it is completed to make the announcement.

- ☺ Include the entire parish in Children's Outreach Projects—invite everyone to bring in contributions too. If you ask for an item on a specific day, ensure you have children there ready to accept them!

## PORTABLE BULLETIN BOARD

If you can't have a bulletin board up all the time, provide one that can be displayed week to week. A portable bulletin board can really help bridge the gap between the generations. This is especially true if your Sunday School classrooms are not highly visible or if you do not have a dedicated children's area. A cheap alternative is to buy some foam insulation board (Lowes), spray glue it and cover it with a \$3 bed sheet from Wal-Mart. If you make two, you can cement them together to make a double sided board that will be sturdy and durable. You will end up with a lightweight, moveable display wall which will prop up anywhere, can be carried into church or is easily hung. Use it to display art and class work with push pins, to record your achievements in an outreach project and pin up photos of children's ministries. Ensure your congregation is able to see the children's work and progress regularly, so display the board where your congregation can see it as often as possible, for example at coffee hour.

### TOP 10 REASONS WHY CHILDREN ARE WELCOMED IN OUR CHURCH

- 10 Repeated exposure to the sights, sounds and symbols of Eucharist help form all Christians.
- 9 Children actually LIKE sitting in those usually-empty front row seats so they can see and hear what's going on.
- 8 It would be expensive to repaint all those signs to read: "The Episcopal Church Only Welcomes Adults."
- 7 Practice makes perfect - teaching young children to enjoy and participate in the service helps them become active and receptive worshipping adults.
- 6 There are no pop quizzes at the communion rail! We all experience the Eucharist as a mystery . . . you don't have to be able to explain it in order to benefit from it.
- 5 Children have their own unique relationships with God. Being in church helps them learn how to pray, sing, worship, and otherwise strengthen that relationship.
- 4 If children aren't in church, who are the candy-unwrapping, restless, coughing, whispering adults going to blame for the noise?
- 3 Sunday services make great family-togetherness time. Use the quiet space for extra hand-holding or snuggling time that may get lost during a busy week.
- 2 Children teach us what absolute joy looks like - and what better place to experience that than in church?

**And the Number One reason why Children are Welcomed in our Church:**

- 1 The Circle of God's family is incomplete without them!

*Thanks to Tracey E. Herzer, Former President of the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors ([www.NAECED.org](http://www.NAECED.org))*



## RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY AUDIT



Diocesan Convention 2009 passed the following:

### **Resolution 5 – “Racial & Ethnic Diversity Audit”**

*PRESENTED BY THE CHURCH COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN  
AND THE COMMISSION TO END RACISM*

BE IT RESOLVED, that each congregation in the Diocese of West Virginia will complete by March 1, 2010, a Racial and Ethnic Diversity Audit of all of its children’s ministry areas and resources utilizing the forms provided by the Church Commission for Children & Commission to End Racism, and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Church Commission for Children will provide each congregation, having completed the audit, with a list of resources that will enable them to make any necessary additions and corrections to provide children’s ministry areas and resources that express racial and ethnic diversity, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that each congregation will report to the Church Commission for Children its Audit results and subsequent action by August 1, 2010 so that the Commission can compile a full report to the 133rd Diocesan Convention.

**EXPLANATION:** Our Christian faith values all of God’s creation and embraces growing in the understanding of how we live into this conviction. Our Church values an inclusive world-view of humanity. Our Diocese seeks to reflect this diversity and to be inclusive of people from all backgrounds including racial and ethnic heritage. Children have a special role both in the church’s future and her present. Our role as Christian communities and faithful people is to provide them a safe, loving place where they may explore their faith. Developmentally, children learn from and are formed by the visual images they see and the stories they hear. This Audit provides a tool for intentionally examining how inclusively this is reflected in the images, stories, and toys that are forming our children. This effort supports our mission to equip them for living today and for serving in the future.

We recognize this Audit covers a specific area of diversity and that there may be other areas that need our attention. By passing this resolution we further the recent efforts within our Diocese to expand our awareness of culture and race, and to diligently work towards eradicating racism.

The Church Commission for Children stands ready to serve the Diocese as a continuing resource for children’s ministry.

### **RESULTS OF THE DIVERSITY AUDIT**

The audit was comprised of categories including posters, pictures, photographs, wall hangings, dolls, toy people figures, children’s books, Sunday school resources, Children’s Chapel resources, last Vacation Bible School program and seasonal resources. The CCC requested that the audit be completed by two people, one who was familiar with the children’s ministry areas and another who was not familiar with those areas.

A total of 47 congregations responded. Many reported having no or few children in their congregation and no children’s ministry. The others responded that posters, pictures, children’s books and Sunday school resources showed good diversity of race and ethnicity. The other categories were lacking in diversity. Many made comments that very few images of people were present at all, that they only used religious symbols, nature and scenery pictures.

The original goals of the resolution were to raise awareness and spur congregations to enhance diversity. The audit was designed to help churches identify areas that need additional resources to ensure diversity is represented for children playing with toys, dolls, reading books or just participating in programming.

The CCC is prayerful that all churches will continue to ensure that racial and ethnic diversity is apparent in the resources they choose to use and display. To help further, the CCC has identified a variety of racially diverse items cheaply available for each of the main audit categories. These are listed on the adjacent page.

The two images on this page are among many diversity images available with permission for churches to use from:

[www.gospelgifts.com](http://www.gospelgifts.com)



## DIVERSITY RESOURCES

### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

As reflected in the comments received in the audit results, resources for Sunday School and Children's Chapel are generally diversity neutral. Teachers must be intentional to educate about racial and ethnic diversity. Specific curriculums recommended by NAECED members included Godly Play and Whole People of God.

There are ways you can easily bring racial diversity into classroom activities however. For example, when doing crafts, cut out people figures from different skin colors and remind children to color people to reflect diversity.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Specific Vacation Bible School curriculums that reflect racial and ethnic diversity include *"On the Move - God's Grace from Place to Place"* by Abingdon Press.

Each year Cokesbury usually provides one program developed specifically for multi-racial communities. Use one of the many curriculum review sites to explore which other VBS programs offer racial and ethnically diverse themes. Many programs however, are also diversity neutral. Always try to include diversity wherever possible, for example when using pictures or making crafts which include people.

You can usually find some racially diverse dolls and figures at local retail stores like Wal-Mart, Target, Family Dollar and Toys R Us. Little Mommy, Tinkerbell and even Barbie are now produced in different racial tones.

For a more comprehensive diversity collection, order from a catalog or online. Example companies are:

#### *Beyond Play*

[www.beyondplay.com](http://www.beyondplay.com) 877-428-1244

#### *Constructive Playthings*

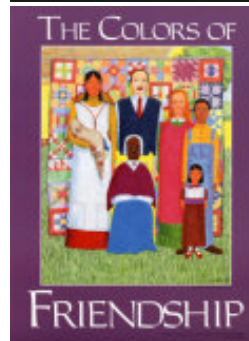
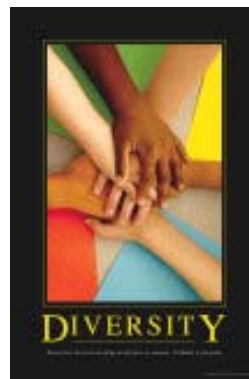
[www.cptoy.com](http://www.cptoy.com) 800-448-4115

#### *Lakeshore*

[www.lakeshorelearning.com](http://www.lakeshorelearning.com) 800-778-4456



While these doll collections are more expensive, they are an investment for your program and usually include Asian, Hispanic, African, Native American and Caucasian figures.



### POSTERS

Posters are a cheap and cost effective way to reflect diversity. There are many sources online but we have selected one to share with you here:

[www.allposters.com](http://www.allposters.com)

888-654-0143

Search Racial Diversity

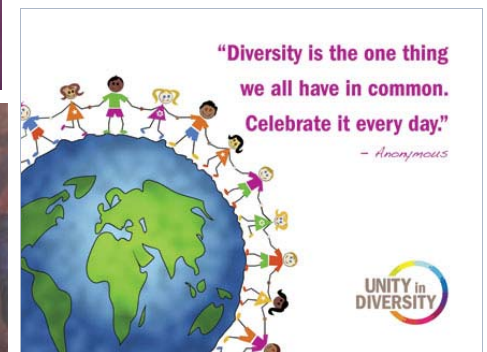
Many posters are less than \$6

[www.jesusmafa.com/anglais/pagetprod2.htm](http://www.jesusmafa.com/anglais/pagetprod2.htm)

provides African illustrations of Biblical scenes.

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) 800-422-0474

has online pictures of racially diverse people.



### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Books that reflect diversity are available at online and local bookstores. Books should be reviewed to determine if they reflect diversity. For example, in Biblical stories do Jesus and his followers look Arabic?

NAECED members recommended:

#### *"God Goes on Vacation"*

ISBN13: 978-0809167470 available from Amazon.com

#### *"International Children's Bible"*

ISBN13: 978-0849908002 available from Amazon.com

#### *"Hallelujah!: A Christmas Celebration" by W. Nikol-alisa*

[www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit\\_resources/diversity/multiracial/multi\\_race\\_picbooks.html](http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit_resources/diversity/multiracial/multi_race_picbooks.html) is a list of children's picture books that include racially diverse families

[www.blackbooksdirect.com](http://www.blackbooksdirect.com) has a selection of books for children.

[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org) also provides a list of books that help young children see racism and help them understand how they can take a stand against it.

### ACTIVITIES

Diversity Bead Bracelet with Questionnaire, "How Much Diversity Do You Have in Your Life?" Contact Joycelyn Kyte or Laura Leslie.



## OUTREACH FOR CHILDREN

Children love to get involved in an outreach project, and there is a wealth of opportunity for them to participate. Ensure you spend some time teaching about your chosen cause so that the children really understand how they are helping.



### HEIFER INTERNATIONAL [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) 800-422-0474

The children can choose which animal they would like to save for (a flock of chicks are \$20 or a cow \$500 with all kinds of animals in

between!) Then have a special collection plate for their donations each week, and record their progress.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD [www.samaritanspurse.com/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.com/occ) 937-374-0761

Fill shoe boxes with toys, accessories, art supplies, clothes etc for a disadvantaged child around the world.

A donation of \$7 is requested with each box to help cover shipping costs around the world. If you pay online, you will get an email notifying which country your box is shipped to. Start in October as collection week is usually mid November!



### SALVATION ARMY; ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Most malls during November and December have an Angel Tree where you can go and select details of a child who needs Christmas presents. It will include their clothes sizes as well as a wish list of gifts. Get children to donate one item, or fundraise to buy items.

### PROJECT LINUS

[www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org) 309-454-1764

Make blankets for children in hospital. The no sew fleece blankets are easy for older kids to help make ([www.projectlinus.org/patterns/pdf/NoSewFB.pdf](http://www.projectlinus.org/patterns/pdf/NoSewFB.pdf)).



### HOMELESS SHELTER

Invite director of homeless shelter to speak. Collect supplies for the shelter. An example is Emergency Winter Warm-up Kit (hand out to people when shelter beds are full); the kit includes 2 pairs of socks, knit hat, Thermacare wrap, blanket or shawl, and chocolate bar. Make bags of donated toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for shelter programs. Bag stamped envelopes and notepaper with a pen for letters home.



### LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Support your local food pantry by asking children to bring in a non-perishable food item each week. Each month, select children to bring the offering into church for a blessing before it is delivered.

Ask parents to take turns in delivering the donation so the children can help unload and be involved.

Hold a food drive, put out notices one week in your local neighborhoods, and collect the food the next.

In Advent make a bean soup mix for the food pantry. Members of the congregation bring items to make bean soup mix. Children decorate paper bags. Place bean soup ingredients and directions for cooking in the bags.

### NURSING HOMES

Decorate miniature Christmas Trees and cards or flower pots and plant flowers in them for nursing home residents. Or decorate paper placemats for use at mealtimes. See if you can go and help present Stations Of The Cross near Easter with your Rector. Enjoy an afternoon of carol singing.



### CLOTHING/TOY COLLECTION

Have a collection to gather good condition used toys and clothes, and donate them to a local charity which helps children or families.

At Christmas time set up a tree for children to decorate with mittens, hats & scarves on to decorate!

[www.Soles4Souls.org](http://www.Soles4Souls.org) 866-521-7463 collects new and used shoes to distribute around the world.

[www.pajamaprogram.org](http://www.pajamaprogram.org) 212-716-9757 collects new nightwear for children. WV chapter available

Hold an "Undies Sunday" and ask your congregation to bring in new underwear for the needy. This is a huge need to go with used clothing donations.

Your local hospital pediatric ward may also welcome any new toys/activities that children can use while in hospital. Make up comfort bags to donate.



### EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT (ERD)

[www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)  
800-334-7626 ext.5129

Administered by the National Episcopal Church ERD supports various ongoing projects as well as world disasters and relief efforts like Haiti.

### HAITI

"Hurting Hearts and Helping Hands" by Leader Resources. This is a workshop rotation model cycle that helps children process what happened in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake and learn about how they can help.  
[www.leaderresources.org/hurting-hearts](http://www.leaderresources.org/hurting-hearts)



## OUTREACH TO CHILDREN

If you do not currently have any children's ministries, consider outreaching to children instead:

- ♥ Covenant House Adopt a Family
- ♥ Sponsor a Girl or Boy Scout Troop
- ♥ Hold a Community Pet Blessing service on St. Francis Day.
- ♥ Offer your facilities to Moms Groups or playgroups
- ♥ Support Children overseas (i.e. Haiti, Grenada)
- ♥ Hold a Mother/Daughter Banquet and invite outside friends to attend too.
- ♥ Offer activities for children during school breaks
- ♥ Invite families to your Shrove Tuesday Supper
- ♥ Take part in Operation Christmas Child, Project Linus or any of the other outreach projects mentioned on this page.
- ♥ Provide a lunch ministry in the summer months for children who usually depend on school meals.
- ♥ If you have an elderly congregation, consider "adopting a grandchild". Someone may know of a family that is in need or does not have much support, that you can build a relationship with and support with school supplies etc.

- ♦ DVDs of Speakers with accompanying materials from 2007 Diocesan Convention:

- ♦ Rev. Canon Anne Kitch Keynote Address, "*Baptized into One Body: Children as Full Members*" and Workshop, "*Holy Households: Faith Formation in the Home*"
- ♦ Bill Gordh Workshop, "*Creating a Meaningful Children's Chapel*"
- ♦ Marc Harshman Workshop, "*The Story Table*"
- ♦ Andrea Leslie Burch Workshop, "*Enhancing Relationships with Children*"

## LEGISLATIVE LIAISON - Joycelyn Kyte

Joycelyn Kyte is employed by the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families. She has expertise in policy and legislation dealing with children and families.

Members of the CCC participate with Prevent Child Abuse WV to respond to legislation electronically. Contact Laura Leslie to receive and respond to emails regarding the prevention of child abuse and neglect during the WV legislative session.



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EPISCOPAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTORS (NAECED)

[www.naeced.org](http://www.naeced.org)

NAECED membership is available to anyone interested in children's ministry. The membership fee is \$20 for non-paid professionals. The primary benefit is participation in an e-mail list serve. This vibrant virtual platform connects members to endless ideas and resources. Ask a question and you will get responses from several children's Christian education directors across the country. A secondary benefit is access to members-only sections of the website, including access to free resources created and shared by other members.

## RESOURCE GUIDE



### EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WV

[www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org)

866-549-8346 or 304-344-3597

Your primary resource within the diocese is the Church Commission for Children (CCC).

### CCC

[www.wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html](http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/childrencommission.html)



(From the diocese home web page; click on "Ministries and Programs", then select Church Commission for Children.) Contact us for help and support with children's ministry involving children from birth through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Member contact information and areas of expertise are included on the back cover of this book. We also have a Diocesan Children's Ministry list serve to help disseminate information and keep in touch. Contact the Diocesan office to request to join.

Check our website for resources including:

- ♦ Brochure and Packet for Congregations on Child Abuse and Neglect
- ♦ Children's Charter
- ♦ Bibliography of Titles Related to Spirituality and Children and Youth

## CENTER FOR THE MINISTRY OF TEACHING (CMT) at the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS)

[www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=119374](http://www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=119374)

Lori Daniels 703-461-1885 or

Dorothy Linthicum 703-461-1888

The CMT provides a wealth of free resources including curriculum reviews, training sessions, events and online links to other useful sites. They also produce **The Episcopal Teacher** publication quarterly, which you can either request to be mailed or emailed; you can download current and past issues from their website. It includes seasonal ideas, reviews of media and curricula, and news of interest to Episcopal educators. Articles address all age groups. You can subscribe by sending an email to [cmtcirc@vts.edu](mailto:cmtcirc@vts.edu) (include your name, parish or home address, phone number, church name, and email address.) Please state if you would like a paper copy mailed or to be added to the email distribution list.

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[www.episcopalchurch.org/children](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/children)  
800-334-7626 800-334-6136

A wealth of information and resources are available online. If you are a Facebook user, check out their children's ministry page by searching "Children's Ministries Episcopal Church Center" for daily updates, newly released resources, seasonal ideas and topical news.

## FREE CLIPART WITH PERMISSION

[www.gospelgifts.com](http://www.gospelgifts.com)  
[www.clipart.christiansunite.com](http://www.clipart.christiansunite.com)  
[www.cruzblanca.org/hermanoleon/](http://www.cruzblanca.org/hermanoleon/)

These sites provide Christian clipart with permission to use for non-profit purposes. You cannot add the images to a gallery, but otherwise have permission to use them in publications, on your website, in class rooms etc.

## PRINTING MERCHANDISE

[www.discountmugs.com](http://www.discountmugs.com)  
800-569-1980

Sign up for their emails to receive an additional 15—20% off their already cheap prices. Excellent quality bags for promotional purposes.

## EUCCHARISTIC MANUAL FOR CHILDREN

Holy Communion for Children (Forward Movement)  
[www.forwardmovementlorG/vmchk/worship/-liturgical-resources/holy-communion-for-children/flypage-ask.tpl.html](http://www.forwardmovementlorG/vmchk/worship/-liturgical-resources/holy-communion-for-children/flypage-ask.tpl.html)

Alleluia! Amen (Eucharist) by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard  
[www.the-sunday-paper.com](http://www.the-sunday-paper.com)

New Life (Baptism) by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard  
[www.the-sunday-paper.com/](http://www.the-sunday-paper.com/)

## FREE NEWSLETTERS

A free Christian Formation Newsletter available to you is **Living IN-Formation** compiled monthly by Sharon Ely Pearson, Church Publishing Corporation. To view this newsletter go to the website of Building Faith,, [www.buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org); the newsletter is located on the right hand column of each page. To subscribe go to Church Publishing, [www.ChurchPublishing.org](http://www.ChurchPublishing.org) and click the box, Join our e News, and click Living IN-Formation.

The CCC also sends out seasonal newsletters. To keep costs down, we send it out as a PDF via our email list serve. To join our email group, or to request a paper copy if you do not have email available, please contact the Diocesan Office.

## ART

The book "*EcoArt!*" by Laurie Carlson has detailed instructions for making natural dyes using cherries, red cabbage, spinach, canned beets, etc. It may be purchased through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES:

[www.LeaderResources.org](http://www.LeaderResources.org) 800-941-2218

Provides churches with Sunday School curriculum and other ministry resources, ordered and accessible at moderate cost

[www.faithguides.com](http://www.faithguides.com) 800-354-4843

Will send you samples if you are on their mailing list.

[www.faith-at-home.com](http://www.faith-at-home.com)

Created by Barbara Laufersweiler, an at-home mom and Episcopalian, the free website offers help to parents as they explore and enjoy faith with their children

[www.Sermons4kids.com](http://www.Sermons4kids.com)

An online resource for Children's Sermons as well as printable coloring pages and other activities. Lectionary sermons are provided for each week.

[www.KidsSundaySchool.com](http://www.KidsSundaySchool.com)

Lesson plans, crafts and activities for a variety of ages. Some of the content is free, otherwise membership is \$36.

[www.ministry-to-children.com](http://www.ministry-to-children.com)

A wide variety of information and resources

[www.dltk-bible.com](http://www.dltk-bible.com)

Printable resources such as coloring pages, activities and crafts for Sunday School and VBS

[www.daniellesplace.com](http://www.daniellesplace.com)

Crafts and activities for Sunday School as well as lesson plans and other resources (\$23.95/yr)

[www.churchpublishing.org](http://www.churchpublishing.org) 800-242-1918

Episcopal resource for purchasing Christian books, music, educational resources and many other items.

[www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org) 800-933-1800

Liturgy Training Publications is a resource recommended by Rev. Canon Anne Kitch, low cost.

[www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) 800-409-5346

Methodist publisher providing various curriculums, VBS and other book resources

[www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) 800-228-2269

Craft, VBS and Decorating Supplies

[www.guildcraftinc.com](http://www.guildcraftinc.com) 800-345-5563

Craft, VBS and Decorating Supplies

[www.cedarmont.com](http://www.cedarmont.com)

Children's Sunday School Music CD and DVD's

[www.PrismNet.com/~lcowper/resources.html](http://www.PrismNet.com/~lcowper/resources.html)

Sunday School links to useful crafts, pictures, and so on in an html document for Bible stories and topics

[www.PuzzleMaker.DiscoveryEducation.com](http://www.PuzzleMaker.DiscoveryEducation.com)

Create your own word search puzzles with Discovery Education's Puzzlemaker

[www.BuildFaith.org](http://www.BuildFaith.org)

Online community for Christian education leaders created by Church Publishing Inc. to share knowledge and best practices

# ***BUREAU FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – LOCAL COUNTY OFFICE DIRECTORY***

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>MAILING &amp; PHYSICAL ADDRESS</b>
<b>BARBOUR</b>	304-4579030	304-4574094	271 Mattaliano Drive, Philippi, WV 26416
<b>BERKELEY</b>	304-267-0100	304-267-0123	P.O. Box 1247 Martinsburg, WV 25402 433 Mid-Atlantic Parkway, Martinsburg, 25404
<b>BOONE</b>	304-369-7802	304-369-7816	P.O. Box 970, Danville, WV 25053 156 Resource Lane, Foster, WV 25081
<b>BRAXTON</b>	304-765-7344	304-765-3694	1920 Sutton Lane, Sutton, WV 26601
<b>BROOKE</b>	304-794-3060	304-794-4169	100 Municipal Plaza, Suite 600, Weirton, WV 26062
<b>CABELL</b>	304-528-5800	304-528-5523	2699 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Huntington, WV 25704
<b>CALHOUN</b>	304-354-6118	304-354-7076	P.O. Box 280, Grantsville, WV 26147 404 Main Street, Grantsville, WV 26147
<b>CLAY</b>	304-587-4268	304-587-2567	P.O. Box 969, Clay, WV 25043 94 Main Street, Clay, WV 25043
<b>DODDRIDGE</b>	304-873-2031	304-873-3078	115 Main St. West Union, WV 26456
<b>FAYETTE</b>	304-465-9613	304-465-7288	1400 Virginia Street, Oak Hill, WV 25901
<b>GILMER</b>	304-462-0412	304-462-0415	1493 WV Highway 5, East Glenville, WV 26351
<b>GRANT</b>	304-257-4211	304-257-1569	15 Grant St., Suite 1 Petersburg, WV 26847
<b>GREENBRIER</b>	304-647-7476	304-647-7486	150 Maplewood Ave. Lewisburg, WV 24901
<b>HAMPSHIRE</b>	304-822-6900	304-822-7571	P.O. Box 1736 Romney, WV 26757 Route 50, E Romney, WV 26757
<b>HANCOCK</b>	304-794-3060	304-794-4169	100 Municipal Plaza, Suite 600, Weirton, WV 26062
<b>HARDY</b>	304-538-2391	304-538-2476	112 Beans Lane, Moorefield, WV 26836
<b>HARRISON</b>	304-627-2295	304-627-2171	P.O. Box 1877, Clarksburg, WV 26302 633 West Pike Street, Clarksburg, WV 26302
<b>JACKSON</b>	304-373-2560	304-372-7888	2139 Cedar Lakes Drive, Ripley, WV 25271
<b>JACKSON</b>	304-373-2560	304-372-7888	2139 Cedar Lakes Drive, Ripley, WV 25271
<b>JEFFERSON</b>	304-724-2600	304-728-0529	P.O. Box 984, Charles Town, WV 25414 239 Willow Spring Drive, Charles Town, WV 25414
<b>KANAWHA</b>	304-746-2360	304-558-1801	4190 W. Washington Street, Charleston, WV 25313
<b>LEWIS</b>	304-269-6820	304-269-0544	P.O. Box 1268, Weston, WV 26452 91 Arnold Avenue., Weston, WV 26452
<b>LINCOLN</b>	304-824-5811	304-824-7811	P.O. Box 468, Hamlin, WV 25523 8209 Court Avenue, Hamlin, WV 25523
<b>LOGAN</b>	304-792-7095	304-792-7003	195 Dingess Street, Logan, WV 25601
<b>MARION</b>	304-368-4420	304-368-4191	9083 Middletown Mall, White Hall, WV 26554
<b>MARSHALL</b>	304-843-4120	304-843-4127	400 Teletech Drive, Suite 2, Moundsville, WV 26041
<b>MASON</b>	304-675-0880	304-675-0883	710 Viand Street, Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550
<b>MCDOWELL</b>	304-436-8302	304-436-3248	840 Virginia Avenue, Welch, WV 24801



<b>MERCER</b>	304-425-8738	304-487-3589	200 Davis Street, Princeton, WV 24740
<b>MINERAL</b>	304-788-4150	304-788-5363	18 N. Tornado Way, Keyser, WV 26726
<b>MINGO</b>	304-235-4680	304-235-4668	203 E. Third Avenue, Williamson, WV 25661
<b>MONONGALIA</b>	304-285-3175	304-285-3174	P.O. Box 800, Morgantown, WV 26507 114 S. High Street, Morgantown, WV 26507
<b>MONROE</b>	304-772-3013	304-772-4372	P.O. Box 678, Union, WV 24983 #174 Route 3, East Union, WV 24983
<b>MORGAN</b>	304-258-1350	304-258-3794	P.O. Box 597, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 62 Regal Court, Berkley Springs, WV 25411
<b>NICHOLAS</b>	304-872-0803	304-872-0832	1073 Arbuckle Road, Summersville, WV 304-26651
<b>OHIO</b>	304-232-4411	304-232-4773	P.O. Box 6165, Wheeling, WV 26003 407 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003
<b>PENDLETON</b>	304-358-2305	304-358-7163	HC 61, Box 18-B, Suite 200, Franklin, WV 26807 Pendleton Business Center, Franklin, WV 26807
<b>PLEASANTS</b>	304-684-9244	304-684-9245	201 Second Street, St. Marys, WV 26170
<b>POCAHONTAS</b>	304-799-2540	304-799-2560	#2 Edray Business Park, Marlinton, WV 24954
<b>PRESTON</b>	304-329-4340	304-329-6082	P.O. Box 100, Kingwood, WV 26537 18351 Veteran's Memorial Hgwy Kingwood, WV 26537
<b>PUTNAM</b>	304-757-7843	304-757-8799	3405 Winfield Rd, Winfield, WV 25213
<b>RALEIGH</b>	304-256-6930	304-256-6932	407 Neville St, Beckley, WV 25801
<b>RANDOLPH</b>	304-637-5560	304-637-0391	1027 N. Randolph Avenue Elkins, WV 26241
<b>RITCHIE</b>	304-643-2934	304-643-4098	220 W. Man Street, Harrisville, WV 26362
<b>ROANE</b>	304-927-0956	304-927-0970	677 Ripley Road, Suite 3, Spencer, WV 25276
<b>SUMMERS</b>	304-466-2807	304-466-2814	320 Summers St., Suite A, Hinton, WV 25951
<b>TAYLOR</b>	304-265-6103	304-265-6107	P.O. Box 29, Grafton, WV 26354 235 Barrett Street, Grafton, WV 26354
<b>TUCKER</b>	304-478-3212	304-478-4514	9346 Seneca Trail, Parsons, WV 26287
<b>TYLER</b>	304-758-2127	304-758-2587	P.O. Box 563, Middlebourne, WV 26149 210 Main Street, Middlebourne, WV 26149
<b>UPSHUR</b>	304-473-4230	304-473-4207	P.O. Box 460, Buckhannon, WV 26201 Route 3, Box 376-A, Buckhannon, WV 26201
<b>WAYNE</b>	304-272-6311	304-272-5183	26452 East Lynn Road, Wayne, WV 25570
<b>WEBSTER</b>	304-847-2861	304-847-7244	110 N. Main St., Suite 201, Webster Springs, WV 26288
<b>WETZEL</b>	304-455-0920	304-455-0928	1236 North State Route 2, New Martinsville, WV 26155
<b>WIRT</b>	304-275-6551	304-275-3938	P.O. Box 310, Elizabeth, WV 26143 Court Street, Elizabeth, WV 26143
<b>WOOD</b>	304-420-2560	304-420-4884	P.O. Box 1547, Parkersburg, WV 26102 400 5th St. Parkersburg, WV 26102
<b>WYOMING</b>	304-732-6900	304-732-8223	HC 72, Box 300, Pineville, WV 24874 Route 97, Pineville, WV 24874

**CHURCH COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN**

**DIOCESE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

WWW.WVDIOCESE.ORG/PAGES/CHILDRENCOMMISSION.HTML

	NAME & CONTACT	AREAS OF EXPERIENCE IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>Laura Leslie</b> St. Timothy's-in-the-Valley, Hurricane  304-586-9113 lauradleslie@yahoo.com	<b>Christian Education Children's Ministry Contact</b> Safeguarding God's Children Presenter, All aspects of Sunday School (Living the Good News, Season's of the Spirit), VBS, Seasonal Activities, Children's Chapel, Christmas Musical, Sharing Parish Resources Database, All aspects of the Church Commission for Children and this publication
	<b>Luther Crouthamel</b> St. James' Episcopal Church, Lewisburg  304-536-3833 luther@wron.net	Crisis Intervention Specialist, focusing on children/young adults. He works with victims of physical or sexual abuse, substance abuse and behavioral problems. He coordinates court proceedings for involuntary commitments and tries to help the legal teams reach agreement on the best course of treatment for the patient facing commitment.
<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>The Rev. Stan Holmes</b> Church of the Good Shepherd, Hansford  304-595-6224 stanholmes@suddenlink.net	<b>Clergy</b> Safeguarding God's Children Presenter, Children's Sermons
	<b>The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson</b> St. John's Episcopal Church, Charleston  304-205-4490 aloveyjoy@stjohnswv.org	<b>Clergy</b> Sunday School , Godly Play & ECC Curriculums, VBS, Seasonal activities
	<b>Becki Krzywdik</b> Christ Church, Wellsburg  304-737-2886 bkrzywdik@msn.com	<b>Parish Administrator</b> Godly Play, VBS, Starting a Sunday School Program, All Aspects of Sunday School, Children's Sermons
	<b>Joycelyn Kyte</b> St. Matthews Episcopal, Charleston  304-356-4533 Joycelyn.A.Kyte@wv.gov	Legislative Liaison for Children's Issues, Advice on DHHR/reporting child abuse issues, Nursery Childcare, Safeguarding God's Children Presenter
	<b>Catherine Saxe</b> Trinity, Parkersburg  304-400-8533 ecsaxe@gmail.com	Seasonal activities, Weaving God's Promises
	<b>Josh Saxe</b> Trinity, Parkersburg  304-422-3362 josh@trinity-church.org	<b>Clergy</b> <b>Director of Religious Education/Formation for children and youth.</b> Activities, Curriculum and Communication Tools
	<b>Lucy Templeton</b> St. Matthews Episcopal, Charleston  304-932-7863 lucy@suddenlink.net	<b>On Staff as Director of Youth</b> Starting a Sunday School Program, Children's ministries, Sunday School programs including ECC, VBS One Day Programs, Midweek Programs, Children's Outreach, KidsSundaySchool.com, Online resources for children's activities, Safeguarding God's Children Presenter, Sharing Parish Resources Database
	<b>Marianne Tweel</b> Trinity Episcopal Church, Huntington  304-697-2258 mariannebt@aol.com	Godly Play, Children's Outreach
	<b>Penny Snider</b> Christ Church, Bluefield  304-327-3472 mommy2rejm@gmail.com	Godly Play, Seasonal Activities